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THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2013

Inspirational Homes & Gardens

Pages 15 & 16

Wales'
Six
Nations
showdown
(See Back
Page)

**GEM RURAL
PROFILE** Pages 20/21

'WE'VE GOT ALL THE WORKING SKILLS!

'...AND WE HAVE THE CERTIFICATES TO PROVE IT'



NVQ candidates celebrate their success at the Excelsior Plus Special Recognition Ceremony, held in St Mary's Hotel, Golf and Country Club near Pencoed.

EXCELSIOR PLUS is an NVQ initiative with Bridgend College, providing fully-funded NVQ opportunities for employees to gain nationally-recognised qualifications in the workplace.

It recently held a special recognition ceremony – to honour

successful NVQ candidates, as part of the wider working skills for adults European Social Fund (ESF) programme.

Mark Jones, Principal, said: "We are delighted to celebrate not only the successes of our students but also the strong working partnership between the college and an ever-increasing number of local companies and organisations who are committed to

the continuing development of their staff.

"We look forward to hearing of the continued success of all these individuals and of their employers."

Working skills for adults, incorporating the Excelsior Plus NVQ initiative, is financed by the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government.



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Bridgend mastiff triumphs at Crufts



Richard
Gardiner,
with Chodak.

A BRIDGEND man and Chodak, a five-year-old Tibetan Mastiff, proved every dog does have its day, after walking away with a top prize at Crufts.

Chodak was one of over 25,000 dogs at Birmingham's NEC, presented by the Kennel Club, which is celebrating 140 years

of promoting healthy, happy dogs, and claimed the prestigious 'Best of Breed' award last weekend.

Owner Richard Gardiner, a finance director, and Chodak, fought off competition from a number of other dogs to scoop the coveted prize, presented by the Kennel Club.

PROUD

Richard was left beaming with pride at his and Chodak's performance at the world-famous dog competition in the West Midlands.

"I have been showing for 22 years and have picked up seven Best in Breeds," he said.

He said: "It has been pretty hectic as I have shown seven dogs here but it is great to win Best in Breed."

"It is Crufts, you have just got to be here."

"It is one of the best shows around."

Police issue appeal as... LOCAL RETAIL PARK STORE IS BURGLED

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing to the public for information, following a burglary at a DIY outlet over night on Monday, February 18.

An spokesperson reported, "Access was gained to the Wickes store on Picton Court Retail Park, alongside the A48, after the culprits cut through a chain link fence and then broke into the building after cutting through the steel wall."

"A large quantity of power tools

and protective clothing was taken from the premises during the night."

Detective Constable Melanie Deere of Bridgend CID said: "This was a very determined effort to commit this crime. Those responsible will have made a lot of noise while gaining access to the building, and will have needed a large vehicle to remove all of the property which was stolen."

"Anyone with any information should contact Detective Constable Deere on 101; or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555111, quoting reference

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Saxons and Britons battle it out in St John's eisteddfod

'As the children sang, you could feel the hwyl'



NEVER mind the much-vaunted visit of Prince Charles and Camilla to the capital last Friday... Never mind the annual St. David's Day parade in Cardiff...

As I sat in the Crampton Hall of St John's School, Porthcawl, I knew I was at the very hub of these hallowed Welsh celebrations.

There was a growing sense of anticipation as the younger pupils took to the stage to perform their medley of Welsh songs and poems, a patriotic vision of red, with splashes of yellow, white and green. As soon as they started singing '*Canu'r hwyl*', you could feel the hwyl swelling harmoniously throughout the hall.

As always in St John's, the two-house system ensured some healthy and lively competition. Breaths were drawn from hushed peers as Saxons and Britons, in turn, took to the stage.

After some wonderful musical items, vocal

and instrumental, from the years four, five and six pupils, spectators were startled out of their hushed, lyrical mood by some very arresting and engaging recitations.

Year six pupil, Holly Sinclair won points for the Britons with her beautifully delivered and feisty version of 'The Bogeyman' by Jack Prelutsky and year four pupil, Ella Rees won points for the Saxons with her chirpy, skilful performance of Roger McGough's 'Cousin Reggie', both delivered with the brio, poise and expertise of future stars.

Another highlight of the morning was the senior vocal section, this year offering the touching and haunting Welsh folk song, 'Lisa Lan', a lover's lament for his lost sweetheart. Two Saxons, Morgan Bennett and Bibiana Viazanni, battled it out against one Briton, the talented Holly Sinclair.

On this occasion, Bibi pipped the other two to the post with her perfect pitch, beautiful pronunciation, and her



Some of the proudly patriotic pupils!

overall technical prowess. But Holly and Morgan also gave excellent performances, with the judges commenting, in particular, on the 'plaintive', 'soulful' quality of Morgan's voice.

St John's eisteddfod is unique in its consistent production of quality French and German items, alongside the traditional Welsh and English fare. It was particularly pleasing to see and hear this component being continued this year, as the numbers choosing to study foreign languages in this country continue to plummet.

The afternoon saw further touching, rousing and highly creative performances. Years seven and nine delivered some excellent Welsh plays, based on local legends and senior instrumentalists and vocalists took to the stage. Joshua Olsen and Tessa Castanera-Webber, joined Bibi, Holly and Bethan Williams in the vocal section.

The enriching and varied day culminated, as usual, in the 'battle' of the house choirs. Months of furtive practice (and eavesdropping outside closed doors!) always result in superb performances from both teams, conducted by senior house members.

This year was no exception. Both choirs staged memorable, emotional performances of Men Of Harlech, but, after serious deliberation, the Saxons were

victorious, with their highly inventive production making full use of their excellent soloists and instrumental accompaniment.

The Saxons also won the overall competition, announced, as always, to rapturous applause – and just the odd grimace from disappointed Britons! Thanks must go again to Mrs Mead for her tireless work and production expertise, ensuring that the highlights concert last Tuesday was a resounding success.

As I gathered my wilting daff and, yes, wiped a tear from my eye, I reflected on the tremendous talent of all our youngsters, not just in St John's, but in the whole of Porthcawl.

Had this been in the West End, you'd have had to pay £100 plus for tickets. Beautiful. This is what school eisteddfodau are made of.

This is what makes Wales so very special. Cymru am Byth. Porthcawl am Byth. Bendigedig iawn.

Report by Caroline Sarll

Louder than words award for council

BCBC'S commitment to providing accessible services has been recognised by Action on Hearing Loss, a UK-based charity that supports people with hearing loss and tinnitus.

The Louder than Words charter mark acknowledges the levels of service and accessibility that the county borough council provides for customers and employees who are deaf or have hearing loss.

The council has provided front-line staff with deaf awareness and sign language training as recommended by Bridgend Deaf Club.

Council services were then benchmarked against the charity's 10 Louder than Words accessibility

standards, which highlighted good practice in several areas.

A council spokesperson said: "The report also suggested areas the council could improve including purchasing portable hearing loops for use during staff training, reviewing information provided at staff inductions and adopting new procedures for maintaining loop systems.

"The council responded by purchasing assistive technology, improving consultation with people who are deaf or suffering hearing loss, and providing staff with further British Sign Language at Work training to learn business-specific signs."

Deputy Leader of

the council, Coun David Sage, said: "Staff in our front-line services have embraced the training they've received from Action on Hearing Loss.

It's great that their efforts have led to the charter mark being awarded.

"Working with Bridgend Deaf Club highlighted areas that allowed us to improve the accessibility of council services.

"It's important that the council is able to communicate with everyone, so we will keep working alongside local disability groups to ensure that council services continue to become more accessible."



ABOVE: Coun David Sage; equalities officer, Paul Williams; principal officer for learning and development, Sue Evans; and customer service manager Bev Davies.

'Dial O for the Operator'

At the March meeting of Merthyr Mawr WI, president Margaret Batten welcomed our speaker, Pamela Robson, whose theme was 'Dial O for the Operator'.

On leaving school in the 60s, Pamela joined the GPO as a telephone operator.

She described the work and traced the development of the telephone system over the years.

She spoke of party lines, telephone kiosks with the A and B buttons and the role of the telephonist in making long distance calls. To make a call from Manchester to Scotland would involve contacting several telephone

exchanges. Her talk brought back many memories for most of us and showed such a contrast to today, in the light of modern technology, with the wide use of mobile phones, texting and emails.

She is, in her own words, an example of 'living history'.

At the February meeting, we held a bring and buy sale of books and plants to raise money for the country women of the world. Gwefil Gardner organised a quiz and this was followed by an enjoyable fish and chip supper.

Members were reminded of the walk to be held in April in Bryngarw Park and the half yearly council meeting. The next meeting will be held on April 3 at Ewenny Community Hall.

Public vote on future of Luke's beard!

NEWTON resident Luke Williams, who works in the village store, is once again running a charity fundraising event.

Last year, for his employer's charity, Children in Need, he organised his own quiz, persuading his employer to donate prizes, printing and distributing questionnaires to local businesses.

This year, in aid of 'Red Nose Day', he is inviting members of the public to vote 'Shave' or 'Save' his facial hair.

Two collection buckets will be available in



Should it stay or should it go?

the Spar Newton (no purchase necessary) to vote either way; if it is 'Shave' it will be done in public!

Good luck Luke!

Malcolm Nugent

Lib-Dem surgeries

WELSH Liberal Democrat for south Wales west, Peter Black, will be holding advice surgeries next week.

On Friday, March 15, he will be in Pencoed Library from 2pm-3pm, and he will then be at Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm-4.30pm

No appointment is necessary.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
14 Thur	07.55	10.1	20.11	9.9
15 Fri	08.29	9.7	20.42	9.6
16 Sat	09.01	9.5	21.13	9.2
17 Sun	09.32	8.9	21.46	8.7
18 Mon	10.05	8.4	22.21	8.1
19 Tues	10.46	7.8	23.08	7.6
20 Wed	11.45	7.3		
21 Thur	00.22	7.2	13.22	7.0

There are lots of stall holders selling various hand crafted and handmade items from jewellery, handmade preserves, sweets and cakes, and many other beautiful craft gifts.

Entry is free to the public on the day. For information about booking a table, email lazy-craft@hotmail.co.uk or call 01656 768253.

Foodbank gets a boost from MP

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has delivered another cheque to the Bridgend Foodbank to help boost their finances.

She explained: "Completing these questionnaires helps support our local charities who are working in our community. The Bridgend Foodbank recently contacted me regarding their need for a van to help deliver their supplies to the centres.

"I suggested funding streams they could apply to but if anyone has any ideas or can help raise some money to support this venture please contact them on the telephone numbers below.

"Also talking to the volunteers they are running short of a number of foodstuffs – pasta sauce, orange juice, coffee, small cereal, tinned carrots, sponge puddings and packet soup, if anyone can help with donations."

The Trussell Trust charity partners with churches to open foodbanks and currently there are 23 foodbanks in operation in Wales. There are four in north Wales and 19 in south Wales. A further four foodbanks are in development, operating in the next three months, one in south Wales and three in north Wales.

"They have found the main reason why people are using foodbanks is due to benefit changes or delays – 46 per cent. A further 18 per cent use them due to low income, 10 per cent because of debt and around 5 per cent of customers were homeless.

"Other causes are domestic violence, sickness, delayed wages and absence of free school meals during school holidays.

"With the changes coming in April to benefits, the rising fuel and food costs we could see even more people coming to the foodbanks for help this year," she warned.

The foodbank has six centres across the borough where food can be



Cath, one of the Foodbank volunteers, receives a cheque from Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon.

collected, they are:

Bridgend Centre: Centre: Tabernacle 79A Nolton St, Bridgend, Chapel, Meadow Street, CF31 3AA; open Pontycymmer, CF32 Mondays, Tuesdays 8HG; open Friday 11am-10am-2pm; Friday 11am-2pm.

Pontycymmer

Bridgend Centre: Centre: Tabernacle 79A Nolton St, Bridgend, Chapel, Meadow Street, CF31 3AA; open Pontycymmer, CF32 Mondays, Tuesdays 8HG; open Friday 11am-10am-2pm; Friday 11am-2pm.

Betws Centre: Centre: Tabernacle 79A Nolton St, Bridgend, Chapel, Meadow Street, CF31 3AA; open Pontycymmer, CF32 Mondays, Tuesdays 8HG; open Friday 11am-10am-2pm; Friday 11am-2pm.

Betws Centre: Saint David's Church, Betws Road, Betws, CF32 8UE; open Wednesdays 9am-11am.

Porthcawl Centre: Griffin Park Community Centre, Griffin Park, Porthcawl; open Friday 10am-12 noon.

Council gets good marks from Estyn inspectors

THE development of a local education action plan is progressing well, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) cabinet members have heard.

A recent Estyn inspection report of Bridgend's education services found that strengths far outweigh any areas for improvements, and that no areas were deemed to be unsatisfactory.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Estyn inspectors found many strengths

here in Bridgend county borough, particularly in the way we support additional learning needs, our outstanding partnership working and our multi million pound school modernisation programme.

"We are fortunate that the majority of schools here are already doing a great job, as demonstrated by their own individual Estyn inspection reports.

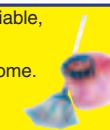
"We understand that inspectors needed to give us a concise report but it's disappointing that much good work was not commented on at all, and that report did not point out how few local schools are placed in 'concerns' categories.

A BCBC spokesperson said: "It's envisaged the park will become the new gateway to the Garw Valley with all its attractions, including cycling and walking. The new-look Bryngarw brand will also include

"I find that really reassuring that schools feel they're in safe hands with this council," he added.

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BRYNCETHIN PRIMARY IS 'PLEASED' WITH REPORT

CABINET members have welcomed a report praising the teaching and learning at Bryncethin Primary.

The Estyn inspection last autumn found most pupils achieve good standards. The curriculum is rich and thoughtfully planned and there is a very strong commitment from all staff for continuous improvement.

A Bridgend County Borough Council spokesperson said: "Inspectors rated both the school's current performance and prospects for improvement as good, and noted that the innovative 'Parents' Council' has had a measurable impact on raising pupils' standards and wellbeing."

Inspectors also found that:

- A particularly strong advantage of the school is the progress many pupils make in improving their reading skills.

- There are very positive supportive relationships between staff, pupils and parents.

- The provision for older pupils to support younger pupils is particularly good and effective.

- The school's work with agencies to support pupils, especially those with additional learning needs, is a particular

Bryngarw is to become 'beacon for the tourists'

BRYNGARW

House and Bryngarw Country Park will come together under an exciting new brand to create a single, 21st Century tourist attraction, cabinet members have agreed.

"We are fortunate that the majority of schools here are already doing a great job, as demonstrated by their own individual Estyn inspection reports.

"We understand that inspectors needed to give us a concise report but it's disappointing that much good work was not commented on at all, and that report did not point out how few local schools are placed in 'concerns' categories.

"I find that really reassuring that schools feel they're in safe hands with this council," he added.

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strength and helps to ensure all are fully integrated and developing their independence within the school community.

- Partnerships with parents, the community and other schools are very good and contribute to realising the school's aims effectively.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "We welcome this positive report for Bryncethin."

"The report includes recommendations around improving attendance and punctuality, ensuring that assessments are accurate and raising standards in the national teacher assessments at key stage 2 in science. This helps the school understand what it is doing well and what it can build on for the future."

Head Andrea Wood added: "All at the school are extremely pleased with the findings of the inspection team."

- It is most reassuring to be told that all teachers demonstrate a high standard of teaching and that the school provides a very positive ethos where pupils are happy, well cared for and supported.

- The school's work with agencies to support pupils, especially those with additional learning needs, is a particular

"We will address the recommendations made in the report and ensure that pupils continue to receive high quality learning experiences."

the growth of its B-Leef scheme, a horticultural work-based project for people with disabilities."

Work has already been completed on the Grade II listed country house's ICT facilities, including introducing Wi-Fi for guests and conference users.

Further internal refurbishment is planned to enhance the house's reputation as a quality restaurant, event and conference setting.

The cabinet heard how opening hours, pricing and dining options will now be reviewed as part of the rebranding exercise, and a new marketing strategy focussed around drawing visitors to Bryngarw will be formulated.

Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member of well-being, said: "What we're proposing is to bring together all that is great about Bryngarw into one seamless, quality visitor experience."

Arriva action on Maesteg line is welcomed

S H A D O W Transport Minister Byron Davies has met train bosses to talk about problems on the Maesteg line.

He said that as a result, Arriva has now promised to allow some late-running trains, in a bid to reduce the number of trains being terminated at Tondu.

Mr Davies met Mike Bagshaw, commercial director of Arriva Trains Wales, to discuss the problems caused when trains are terminated at Tondu, leaving passengers stranded at the station and other would-be passengers waiting at stations higher up the line for trains that never arrive.

Mr Davies contacted Arriva after receiving complaints from passengers about the service.

One constituent complained about trains terminating at Tondu and also raised the issue of some of the Maesteg trains leaving Cardiff being too full to take all passengers wishing to travel.

There is also confusion at Cardiff Station about which platform the train will depart from, leaving passengers scurrying around between platforms.

LITCHARD and PENDRE PACT, Litchard Mission (off Litchard Terrace) on March 25 at 6pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT, The Library, Brynnteg Comprehensive School on March 27, at 6.30pm.

He went on: "We had a very full discussion and I was told that some of the terminations during the period September to December last year, when the company

conducted a review, were caused by problems with signalling or other rail infrastructure which is down to Network Rail. I have raised these matters myself in meetings I have had with Network Rail."

Mr Bagshaw told Mr Davies that the company was aware of the problems when trains were turned around at Tondu.

Mr Davies has now secured a pledge from Arriva that trains will only be terminated at Tondu if they are running more than 16 minutes late.

He added: "This is a very welcome move by Arriva and acknowledges the problems that these terminations were causing. This decision will allow more late-running trains to run through to Maesteg although there will, of course, be a knock-on effect on following trains.

"However, I think that people would prefer a train to come late

than not at all, which is what happens at the moment. I accept that if it more than 16 minutes late, then it will terminate at Tondu in a bid to get the timetable back on track. There has to be a line drawn somewhere."

The issue of overcrowding on the trains was also discussed by Arriva, who say that they are unable to put on longer trains despite the fact that all the platforms along the line have been lengthened, because all the rolling stock allocated to the franchise is in use.

Mr Davies said that there was a desperate need for a passing loop to be constructed along the Maesteg Line to increase rail frequency to a half hourly service.

This would reduce overcrowding and also lessen the impact if trains were terminated, as passengers would have to wait half an hour for the next train, rather than an hour as at present.

PACT meetings

MORFA WILD MILL PACT, Community Life Centre, The Precinct, Wildmill on March 14 at 6.30pm.

TOWN PACT, Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street, on April 8 at 6.30pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD and BRYNHYFRYD PACT, Llangewydd Junior School, April 15 at 5.30pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT, Civic Offices, Angel Street on April 24 at 6.30pm.

COITY PACT, Gilead Chapel, Heol y Groes on March 27 at 7pm.

Bridge ahead of the game with technology!

WHAT has bridge in common with rugby, but not with soccer? For over 10 years, rugby has embraced try-line technology, but soccer is only just scheduling goal recognition.

In bridge, centralised computerised scoring has been around for about 20 years, but over the past year that technology has been enhanced and placed on the playing table, with the Porthcawl Club being one of the pioneers.

A year ago, the club purchased the latest recording technology (BridgeMates), which enables players to enter their scores into a small table top unit, that wirelessly transmits the results instantaneously to a computer, enabling the evening's scores to be displayed on a monitor within seconds of the last hand being played.

The most elderly of players, who may not even be able to handle a TV remote control, find the system so user-friendly and fascinating – they are

unwilling to defer to their younger counterparts.

Having become familiar with the technology in just one weekly session, the club now uses it at all their sessions, and is amongst the more technologically adept in the UK.

Recent results

March 2: first, Colin and Hazel Heard; second, Terry Dolan and Kate Craven.

March 4: first, Emer Disley and Pat Haworth; second, Trish Saunders and Marian Evans.

March 7: first, Connie Dick and Pat Cogbill; second, Diane Reynolds and Julia Davies.

The club meets three times a week, Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Rest Hotel, 7pm-10.15pm – visitors welcome at any time.

On March 14, the club will be running its men's and ladies pairs championship.

FIRST (and last) MINISTER IN A ROTARY CLUB GET-TOGETHER!



ABOVE, left to right: Ceri Griffiths, Win Griffiths, Mutale Merrill, Julie Morgan AM, former First Minister Rhodri Morgan, First Minister Carwyn Jones AM, and Mike Lewis (Rotary president).

Recycled festive trees raise a total of £2,200 for charity

RESIDENTS of Bridgend county borough have stepped up efforts to recycle their real Christmas trees, with the number recycled this year topping 760 – nearly 500 of which were collected through the council's kerbside tree recycling scheme.

Their efforts meant that over £2,200 will be donated to local charities, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Mayor's Charity Appeal; an increase on the £1500

raised during the pilot last year.

The seasonal scheme asks residents to put out their Christmas trees for collection with their usual weekly recycling, in exchange for a minimum £3 donation to charity.

The collections were made by BCBC's recycling partners May Gurney and were funded through a Sustainable Waste Management grant, so that all donations could go to the nominated charities.

The trees were taken to BCBC's Highways recycling centre for chipping and composting,

meaning they will also help the local environment.

Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for communities, said: "After the success of last year's pilot, I'm pleased to see so many households take advantage of the scheme.

"Not only has it helped the county borough to get 2013 off to a green start, it's also raised a significant sum of money for local charities.

"Thank you to everyone who took part – let's hope we can top this effort again next year!"

BRIDGEND Rotary Club held its annual international evening at Court Colman Manor Hotel, Pen-y-Fai on March 4 with guest speaker Rhodri Morgan.

He was introduced by his successor as First Minister, the Bridgend AM, Carwyn Jones, who paid warm tributes to Rhodri, and outlined the influence he had exercised over him as a young politician.

Mr Morgan responded with a speech of wit and humour; as he ranged over many topics from his early life, his political career and even his love of sport.

The vote of thanks was given by Dr Bob Broughton, formerly head of the BMA in Wales, who related his own anecdotes about Rhodri.

WM

MPs urged to 'go further' for Fairtrade

THE Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, met Frank Olok, coordinator of Malawi Fairtrade Network, during Fairtrade Fortnight to hear about the TOUGH challenges facing smallholder farmers.

The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight is 'Go Further for Fairtrade' and Frank Olok asked MPs to do more to support Fairtrade in the coming year.

The Fairtrade Foundation launched a new campaign for Fairtrade Fortnight calling for urgent action to support the smallholder farmers, who produce 70 per cent of the world's food, but are currently half the world's hungry people.

The MP reported: 'Frank Olok presented me with a copy of the report to launch the campaign, "Powering up Smallholder Farmers to Make Food Fair". The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness about the daily plight of farmers in developing countries who are amongst the poorest people in the world.'

"Despite growing most of the world's food they still struggle to



ABOVE: Frank Olok with Madeleine Moon.

make a sustainable living, get access to finance and improve their and their communities' economic, and, social situation.'

The campaign launches a five-point agenda for action and is calling on the Prime Minister, David Cameron, to use his influence, when the UK hosts the G8 Summit in Northern Ireland in June, to put smallholder farmers at the heart of Governments trade policy and international and

national business practice.

The Malawi Fairtrade Network represents around 10 Fairtrade producer organisations with a joint membership of 22,000 farmers. The report highlights how much we rely on smallholder farmers for our everyday foods. Around 30 million smallholders produce most of the world's coffee and cocoa foods, while tens of millions more produce tea, bananas and sugar.

Air cadets' keep feet on the ground for base visit!



RAF Air Cadets from Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, Port Talbot and Pencoed spent their Saturday morning at Hunter Flying Ltd at St Athan.

Twenty eight cadets and seven staff were welcomed by John Sparkes, chief engineer. They were given a talk on the various aircraft inside the hangar and the type of work being carried out there.

The cadets were then allowed to take photos and get up close to the aircraft, something which would never seem possible. The staff were just as enthusiastic as the cadets, as this was an opportunity to see close-up many aircraft which are only ever seen from a distance.

For some, the lure of the cockpit

was too much and they just had to climb aboard.

Hunter Flying Ltd is due to move to larger premises in June this year; their team comprises highly skilled full-time and part-time staff, as well as volunteers, all of whom have great expertise and experience in the aero industry.

Sgt Peckham (ATC) who arranged the visit, said he was looking forward to arranging another in the summer to the new premises.

Sgt Peckham would like to extend his thanks to John Sparkes and his team for the visit, which was thoroughly enjoyed by those that attended cadets and staff alike.

LINDSAY THOMAS
Secretary, Civilian Committee

Flt Lt Woodward
RAFVR(T) with some
of the cadets from
Kenfig Hill.

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PORTHCAWL 'SLEEP OUT' HIGHLIGHTS HOMELESS ISSUE



PHOTOGRAPHS by
KEITH E MORGAN



Preparing for the Sleep Out!



THE homeless charity, Emmaus, whose president is Terry Waite CBE, has moved into Porthcawl, with its second shop opening in six months.

Emmaus has opened a furniture store in the former Carconomy shop. The first is in Bridgend on Station Hill.

A spokesperson said: "Emmaus is a charity with a difference; its slogan is 'A Charity That Works' due to it providing a home and a job for formerly homeless people to help themselves.

Emmaus Communities enable people to move on from homelessness, to providing work and a home in a supportive, family environment.

"We hope its first Emmaus community home in Wales will open in Bridgend in the next year. Its residents will come off benefits in exchange for a home and a job.

"Can you imagine

what it feels like to have nowhere to sleep? 450 people in Bridgend are homeless!"

"Forty five people joined our Sleep Out on March 1 to raise awareness of the huge homeless issues in Porthcawl and Bridgend."

The Sleep Out took place from 8pm under the band stand, John Street, Porthcawl, when the 45 slept out in cardboard boxes. The Mayor of Bridgend county borough council, Coun Marlene Thomas, visited the volunteers on Saturday morning, Emmaus being one of her charities for 2012/13.

Coun Jeff Tildesley, vice chair of Emmaus South Wales, together with John Noble, chair of Emmaus and volunteers took part in the sleep out.

For further information contact www.emmausouthwales.org.uk/. Furniture donations can be made at the shop or by telephoning 01656 771555.

COMMUNITY NEWS ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

WICK Chapel held a Mothering Sunday service on March 10, remembering all members of the chapel and mothers.

WICK Horticultural Society held their AGM in the village hall on March 8 and to make arrangements for the coming season.

THE collection of green garden waste bags will now commence from March 22 and then on alternate weeks to the black bags.

OGMORE Retired Residents held their meeting at All Saints, Southerndown, on March 7, when the speaker was Linda Feagan of the Bridgend Dogs Trust, who

CYCLE ROAD RACE

ONE of the most prestigious road cycling races in Wales will start at 10am from Cowbridge on March 17, around a circuit course through the villages of Corntown, Ewenny, St Brides Major and Wick to finish outside the motor racing circuit at Llandow.

The 'Betty Pharaoh Memorial Legstretchers Road Race' will comprise two separate races of around 80 riders, approximately ten minutes apart on the road.

rescue dog, Ruby – a three-year-old King Charles spaniel.

The Retired Residents will be holding their AGM on March 21 at All Saints, Southerndown, at 2pm. Please make every effort to attend.

THE village market was held last Saturday at the church hall, with extra stalls. The ladies were very busy making up bunches of daffodils, courtesy of Slade

Southerndown, ready for the church Mothering Sunday service.

ON Mothering Sunday, lunches at the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major, each mother was presented with a red or yellow rose.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

THE staff and children at Ogmor Vale primary school are to be congratulated on becoming one of the few schools in Wales to gain its third green flag in the Eco-Schools programme.

The assessor was impressed by the whole school's enthusiasm and the involvement of those taking part.

The school has participated in a number of events under the Welsh Government programme of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, including 'Food for Thought' the 'Big Fair Trade Bake-Off' and national campaigns, such as 'Size of Wales' and 'World Water Day' – and intends to continue with its hard work, to attain platinum status in two years' time.

The school will be holding a book fair between March 18-22, from 3.15pm to 4pm. A £1.00 gift voucher will be given towards the purchase of a book.

On Friday, there will be a fancy dress 'garden theme' at the school, it is hoped that children will dress as gnomes, insects, flowers etc, and a prize will be given for the best-dressed child in each class.

Budding musical stars

Anyone interested in taking part in a musical show, is invited to go along to auditions for the production of 'Jekyll and Hyde' which are being held at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llanywedd on April 6, at 12 noon. For further information, telephone Sarah on 07922 218462.

The musical will take place at Maesteg town hall between October 23-26 and is produced by the Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society. It holds rehearsals at Plasnewydd primary school during term times on Monday and Friday evenings between 7-9pm, and will hold its AGM at the school on March 18.

The society was launched in 1943 during the Second World War years, and its first show was the Desert Song. **Maesteg Rotary Club**

The club is to be congratulated for its generous donation of ten computers to Maesteg Comprehensive and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llanywedd schools.

They were produced by Sony UK Technology Centre in Pencoed and are credit card sized Raspberry Pi type. **Aberkenfig and District WI**

Members of Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute are looking forward to a busy summer this year, starting with the meeting on April 10, when speak-

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



**Upper Juniors - 1st
Dewi Gronow, 2nd Katie
Baker, 3rd Siân
Kinsman.**

Bridgend Carers' Centre

The above charity is based at 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (tel 01656 658479). Today (March 14) the outreach group will be at Brackla Tabernacle Church between 10am and 12noon. There will be a fundraising event for Comic Relief at the centre from 4pm to 6.30pm.

Tomorrow, the outreach group will be at the Co-op supermarket, Pencoed to highlight problems faced by young carers aged between 14 to 25 years of age.

On March 18-25, there will be the book Cwtch between 1pm-2pm, with an opportunity to practice reading out loud.

Also on March 18, there is an opportunity for carers to learn moving and handling techniques at Trem Y Mor between 9.30am-4pm. On March 19 at the centre, carers can get advice on various aspects of First Aid between 9.30am - 2.30 pm.

On March 20, the Community Café will be open between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm. There will be a representative from the charity REVIVE in attendance to advise on Multiple Sclerosis.

On March 21, the outreach group will be with a representative of the Citizens Advice Bureau at Maesteg Council Offices between 10 am and 12noon.

At the centre on March 21, between 1.30pm and 3.30 pm, an information course starts for new carers.

Congratulations... to Dr. Jeffrey Jones on his recent promotion to Professor of Ceramics at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

I have known Jeff for a number of years and know that he has published reference books on the subject. He has also had a book published on the history of Tondu Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Hunger lunches

In support of the charity Christian Aid, a lunch, consisting of a bowl of soup, bread and a Welsh cake, will be provided to everyone who goes along to Smyrna Chapel, Pen y Fai this Saturday, March 16, between 12 noon-1.15pm. The lunch costs only £2.50 and all the money raised will be donated to the charity.

Spine-chilling atmosphere and some ghostly figures...

NEWTON is one of two villages within the seaside town of Porthcawl and dates back to Norman times; it had an active creek from 1501, and a port to transport cargo by 1601, where two tons of iron were shipped from Newton to Somerset on a vessel called *Tryniite* of Aberthaw.

The port also attracted smugglers, who offloaded their wares at Newton Weir.

St John's Church, which towers above the landscape of this quaint village, has unknown beginnings, but it has been suggested that the founder was Richard de Cardiff, with William, Earl of Gloucester being responsible for its construction and provision of funds.

Norman knights have also been linked with the church under the Order of St John of Jerusalem with the De Sanford family as its founders around the end of the 12th century and into the early 13th century.

With this theory in mind, William, Earl of Gloucester, witnessed an early Margam Charter around 1147 - 1183.

The Lords from the Pembroke, Herbert, and

Lougher manors are mentioned in connection with the church over the following few centuries with examples of work from 13th, 14th and 15th relating to the south porch, although little other documentation remains today.

During the 15th century many parts of the church were rebuilt as recorded by Mr G E Halliday. These include the nave, the tower, the west doorway and the chancel.

Other features, such as the stained glass windows and the pulpit, were rebuilt during the Victorian era. Places of burial usually create an atmosphere of peace, and St John's churchyard is no exception, although people of importance to the area of Porthcawl are buried within the church itself.

The remains of Richard Lougher, who died in 1701, along with other Lords of Tythebone, occupy the tombstones around the floor of the chancel.

The churchyard at the heart of Newton contains the remains of natives who drowned in tragic accidents, by falling prey to the treacherous waters of Newton Point.

An outbreak of cholera began to circulate throughout Newton in 1866. This was because of the poor sanitation within the area, which, unfortunately, spread rapidly throughout Porthcawl, causing many unnecessary deaths.

Among other resting places for citizens of our past, the bodies of three young boys from a Dutch West-Indian ship called *Planters Welvaart*, were buried in the cemetery on June 3 1770, which produces a sad picture of life surrounding the cruel sea at Newton port.

The death of William Turpin, on June 26 1774, who was a gentleman and clockmaker from Kenfig, seems to have some significance for the churchyard's history.

The graveyard was a popular burial place within the parish of Newton Nottage, and by 1932 was declared full to capacity. A new municipal cemetery on the outskirts of Porthcawl and on the main road towards Cornelly was opened on July 23 1934, for the purpose of the deceased residents of modern times.

The stillness of any silent graveyard can paint an eerie picture and send shivers down the spines of unsuspecting visitors.

The spine-chilling atmosphere around St John's churchyard seems to house a plethora of ghostly figures that seem unwilling to leave this place of rest. Although, would any soul at peace want to stay

around their place of burial?

The invisible 'Lich' is said to stretch its icy fingers onto unsuspecting visitors' shoulders, sending them into a world of panic.

Nobody knows what or who this invisible force is, but it seems determined to make its presence known in the empty churchyard.

Is this energy vying for the attention of the inhabitants of this earthly plane?

The seemingly solid image of a young lady wearing a grey dress has been seen on a few occasions, roaming the graveyard as if she is searching for something or even someone.

Who could this forlorn soul be, and why does she choose to wander the church grounds alone?

On the evening of Hallowe'en, the unnatural sighting of a man seemingly hanging from a particular tree at midnight has been recognised for centuries, only for this frightful image to fade into oblivion.

Could this ill-fated person be at the centre of a hanging many years ago, or just a product of the imagination? Fact or fiction? Only you can decide...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS

PUPILS PLACE TIME CAPSULE AT LOCAL PUB

Pupils with the time capsule.



PUPILS from Coychurch Primary School sent a message to the future by burying a time capsule in the grounds of a new pub and restaurant in the heart of Bridgend.

Uniforms, timetables, award badges, work books, fundraising kits, a medal from the diamond jubilee, newspapers, stationery and a letter explaining each item were all included in the pupils' time capsule.

A plaque will also be put up in the pub, with the date of when the capsule was buried.

"The time capsule is not only a fascinating project for youngsters to take part in, but it's

also quite symbolic for us too - we're at the exciting beginning of something new with Cherry Laurel, which will be around for generations of families to enjoy," said pub manager Jon North.

Cattle 'neglect': another view

Reader's opinion

The last thing these farmers want (along with virtually every other farming family) is to neglect their animals, and have them live in conditions such as those described or, even worse, die.

Farms are, essentially, a business. Would any business person neglect their main livelihood? No, I didn't think so.

Not everything in the countryside is fluffy and sweet-smelling. (Name and address supplied)

New mentoring centre calls for more volunteers in Bridgend



VOLUNTEERS of all ages are needed for a new centre in Bridgend.

Thanks to a grant of almost £500,000 from the Big Lottery Fund, the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme is looking for volunteers to help run their family centre which will be open in April in Bridgend town centre.

Open six days a week, the centre will have something to offer people of all ages. The venue boasts a large lounge with a coffee bar, conference and training room and kitchen and bathroom facilities suitable for those with disabilities. Friendly staff will be at hand to offer advice and signposting or to simply chat over a cuppa!

Pre-arranged activities will take place during the afternoons and evenings but the mornings will be open to everyone. Young people will also have exclusive use of the centre two evenings a week to meet friends and chill.

Principal officer, Angela James said: "This is an exciting new project that the people of the borough can be part of. Individuals of all ages are invited to become members of steering groups have a say in the family centre's activities and development. We are also encouraging people to get involved by volunteering in the day to day running of the centre."

"Volunteers will be able to take part in many activities including IT, arts and crafts, meeting and greeting, office administration, cookery, gardening and lots more, as well as having a say on what they think should be run at the centre."

For more information, telephone Angela James at the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme on 01656 647891 (Mondays to Thursdays) or email: angela@thebridgegps.org.uk / training@thebridgegps.org.uk.

Quiz League report

ON Monday, March 4, the champions-elect Llangewydd Arms, had their usual high-scoring win; this time Pheasant Poachers were the unfortunate recipients of a mauling.

The score was incidental, 63 to 32. Defeats like this can be very demoralising. Tyrrisha Nomads just couldn't get going in their match with Crown Inn 'A' who were in very good form.

They had a convincing win away to the Nomads by 51 points to 41.

The other two games were closer. Mackworth Arms won 48-40 at the Six Bells, and Tondyr Railway Club had a welcome victory against Tyrrisha Royals by 48 to 42.

In Division 2, the two top teams were beaten, but remain joint first. Crown Inn 'B' had a surprising loss at home to Pheasant Gamekeepers by 48 points to 43 and Greenmeadow went down at home to Cabo Roche, 51-45, who are now only two points behind the leaders.

Leaston Inn 'A' are also in range as they won at Oldcastle 'B', 50-45.

Finally, the gap at the foot of the League is now very wide after Llansteffan Inn 'B' beat Pyle RFC 50-40. Here are your four teasers:

1. Which band named themselves after a fictional band from the novel 'A Clockwork Orange'?

2. Which metallic element is the lightest known solid and derives its name from the Greek word for 'stone'?

3. In the year 2000, which Aston Villa player became the first Welshman to be sent off at Wembley?

4. Which classic World War Two memoir by William Stanley Moss tells of a daring raid in 1944, in which a German general was kidnapped on the island of Crete?

A RUDGE
(for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1. Heavens 17.
2. Lithium.
3. Mark Debynski.
4. III Met by Moonlight.

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AMs oppose seafront parking charges in Porthcawl

PLANS to introduce car parking charges along Porthcawl seafront are being opposed by Suzy Davies and Byron Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AMs for south Wales west, who have sent objections to the council about the proposals which are out for public consultation.

The council intends to install parking ticket machines along The Esplanade and West Drive. Motorists parking along the front from the lifeboat station as far as the junction with Louther Gardens, will be expected to buy a parking ticket. No details of charges are available as yet.

Byron Davies, Shadow Minister for transport and regeneration, said he had been lobbied by residents who are likely to be affected by this move.

He said: "Residents living in the side streets leading from the seafront fear that motorists unwilling or unable to pay will try to park in their streets, exacerbating an already difficult situation.

"There is a very real danger that cars which now park along the length of the seafront will be displaced into already congested side streets.

"Residents already feel that they are under siege during the summer when there are insufficient vacant spaces along the main road and motorists trawl through the streets leading off the seafront desperate to park anywhere they can, including across driveways.

"It is crucial that a seaside resort like Porthcawl offers sufficient parking

for visitors and on-street parking like this is crucial."

Suzy Davies, Shadow Welsh tourism minister, said that she worried about the adverse impact such a move could have on the tourism industry in the town.

"Porthcawl is a leading seaside resort and it is imperative that day trippers coming by car are encouraged and not driven away.

"Porthcawl serves a hinterland of valley areas like Maesteg, Ogmore and Garw which are all within the borough and whose residents regard Porthcawl as their bit of the coast.

"These residents are also Bridgend Council taxpayers and they enjoy a trip to Porthcawl. They patronise shops and cafes and come year round including winter.

"The council should also remember that Neath Port Talbot Council has recently rejected plans to charge visitors to park on Aberavon seafront.

"That means that visitors will know that they can drive a few miles along the coast to visit a resort where they can park for free and still enjoy sea views and fresh air. This could result in the loss of a major slice of the day tripper market to Aberavon."

Mrs Davies said that Porthcawl town centre would also be affected by any drop in visitor numbers.

"I am not only talking about businesses geared to visitors like ice cream parlours but also shops generally. At the moment, our High Streets are under intense pressure. Nothing should be done to make it more difficult or costly for people to carry on visiting the town."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr Brian Moss - Twin Cefn Cribwr Athletic proposed detached garage and minor extension of residential curtilage.
 Cefn Derlwyn Road, Tondu - 2-3m height reduction of Beech tree, 4.5m height reduction of Oak tree and 3-4m crown reduction of Sycamore tree.
 Coity Higher Community Council - allotment gardens, rear Heol West Plas, Coity - cut back to 8-10ft trees to rear of site and removal of and cutting back of overhanging branches.
 Valleys To Coast - six locations within Tudor estate, Maesteg, Bridgend - six non-illuminated signs showing maps of the estate.
 Mr G Davies - rear 98 Nolton Street, Bridgend - change of use of old nineteenth century bakery to residential.
 Brynmynach Farm, Llan Road Maesteg - alterations to existing building (P10/907/APPN) and indoor animal handling unit for livestock accommodation.
 Mr Nigel Steele - Land north of Whitehall Pen-Y-Fan, Bridgend - six detached houses - affecting Footpath Five, Newcastle Higher.
 Mr John Trottman - Plot ADJ 7 Pen Y Bryn Road, Brynmynach, Bridgend - outline application for one dwelling and garage.

Mr S Moxey - Nant Y Mynydd Panthirwaun Road, Bryncethin, Bridgend - convert existing double garage into granny annexe.
 Mr and Mrs M Burnell - Ty Talwyn Farm, Ffordd Y Gyfraith, Bridgend - single storey extension to rear.
 Persimmon Homes East Wales - Parc Derwen - land parcel R3, Coity, Bridgend - plot substitution of one dwelling (Plot 87 formerly Plot 22) with associated parking.

Coychurch superheroes show their pedal power



Coychurch's superheroes get on their bikes!

PUPILS at the Coychurch Primary have shown that they are cape-able of being cycle-to-school heroes!

The Incredible Hulk, Catwoman, Spiderman and all their friends made the super effort to use pedal power to get to school as part of cycling charity, Sustrans' Big Pedal competition.

Children from the school donated £1 to the charity to dress as their favourite superhero and cycle or scooter to school on the first day of the competition, which runs until Wednesday, March 20.

More than a dozen primary schools from Bridgend County Borough are getting involved

with this year's competition, which sees schools across the UK battling to win virtual UK stage races by biking or traveling to school.

Over 950 schools across the UK competed for the prizes in last year's competition, with over one million miles being cycled or scooted, saving over £350,000 in fuel. This year, the super cyclers can rack up the miles to win prizes ranging from bike storage to cycle

stunt displays for their schools. Coun Huw David, Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for children and young people, said: "It's great that our schools are working with Sustrans to encourage cycling and scooting to school because it's a

fantastic way for children to stay fit and healthy. Well done to all the children who dressed up and cycled to school - you all looked super. The teachers looked quite good as well!"

Miss V Jones, teacher and Bike It champion at

Coychurch Primary School, said: "Coychurch Primary School is proud to support the work of Sustrans and believe it is very important for us to encourage our pupils to find safe, healthy routes to school.

"A big 'well done' to all the super-hero children, parents and teachers who cycled, walked and came on their scooter to school! It was wonderful to see so many vehicles in the bike shed. Keep up the good work!"

Malcolm Shepherd, Sustrans' chief executive, said: "The average primary school journey is just 1.5 miles - the perfect distance to walk or cycle. Every year The Big Pedal helps tens of thousands of families rediscover the fun and freedom of cycling to school, get fit and save money at the same time.

"With the Welsh Government set to introduce the Active Travel Bill, promotions such as the Big Pedal are crucial in helping families discover the safe routes that exist in their communities.

"Evidence shows how children that cycle to school regularly are more active and better learners - it's time for us all to get on our bikes!"

Pupils raise funds for two charities



Pictures by Mandy Thomas

ABOVE and BELOW: Pencoed pupils celebrate their fund-raising events.



PENCOED Comprehensive's year-12 were delighted to meet Dylan this week, when he came to their assembly to receive a cheque for £2,010, raised by the tremendous efforts of year 12 at their Christmas fayre, completed as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

It was a unanimous decision to

donate the money raised to Dylan's Dreams and they hope that it will help Dylan to take the trip of his dreams.

They were also proud to learn that they had raised the most money of any one group in one event. A great achievement!

Year-13 were also able to hand over a cheque for £933 to Noah's Ark chil-

dren's charity as a result of their team enterprise, as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate.

They were pleased that the money raised would help support Noah's Ark new build project, which will improve the facilities available to those in need. SD

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE LOCAL NEWS

Talbot Community Centre
FOLLOWING the Easter lunch on Good Friday, March 29, an Easter bonnet parade will be held, with a prize for the best hat.

Known for their entertaining trips, the Talbot have organised the first two for 2013:

On June 20, they have arranged a visit to the Swansea Marina followed by a trip down the River Tawe.

There will be two coaches, with passengers from the first enjoying a trip on the river followed by tea and passengers from the second coach enjoying lunch, followed by

the trip on the river. (Both meals consist of fish and chips!). There are only a few places left.

On November 20, there will be a full day trip to the Birmingham Bullring and Christmas market.

The day will be rounded off with an evening visit to the National Indoor Arena to see the Military Tattoo Show (6 pm). The cost of the coach and a ticket to the show is just £35 (places are selling quickly).

For more information about the Talbot's activities or to book one of the trips and avoid disappointment, ring Cheryl Butcher on 01656 749754.

Wellbeing centre
Activities being held by the Mental Health Matters, at the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, on March 20:

Music Workshop with Valley & Vale from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm. Talk by P.C. Paul Evans, Hate Crime Officer from 3pm-4pm; Bingo from 3pm to 4pm; reading group 4pm-5pm; plus social afternoon

SHOUT Forum

At the last meeting, which was well attended, the speaker from Trading Standards gave a very informative talk which was enjoyed by SHOUT members.

The next meeting of the SHOUT Forum will be held at Theos' Charity Shop, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill on

solo for the first time was an amazing experience that I will never forget."

Flt Lt Barry C Thomas RAFVR(T), Officer Commanding, said: "Cadet Flight Sergeant Cooper had worked hard to attain this achievement that accumulated in the successful conclusion by him gaining his pilot's wings."

Lindsay Thomas

After completing a successful landing, he was looking forward to being presented with his pilot's wings. He said: "The course and flying

So once again he took the long journey to Tayside Aviation to resume his training. The week started with snow which made way for blue skies.

The week went well and after nine hours of flying, his instructor decided the time had come for Cadet Flt Sgt Cooper to go solo.

Nathan climbed aboard the Grub Heron (G115 D2) aircraft for his solo flight.

After completing a successful landing, he was looking forward to being presented with his pilot's wings. He said: "The course and flying

is a great experience!"

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COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840
Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

March 26 between 2pm and 4pm.

The speaker on this occasion will be from Bridgend County Borough Council's housing service.

For further information about the activities of Kenfig Hill SHOUT, call Stan Rumble on 01656 741203.

Llys Ton
The Porthcawl Ukulele band will be performing in Llys Ton, Kenfig Hill on March 27 at pm.

Entry is £3 and all are welcome to what should be an entertaining evening.

For further information regarding the activities at Llys Ton, which is located in Waunbant Road, Kenfig Hill, ring 01656 745666.

Stars in Your Eyes
The annual 'Stars in Your Eyes' at the Royal Oak Pub, Kenfig Hill, which is celebrating its 11th anniversary, has attracted quite a lot of interest this year.

If you are either a vocalist or instrumentalist, it is not too late to enter this popular event.

Should you require equipment and backing tapes, they can be provided.

To enter, telephone the Oak on 01656 740031, or Mark on 07968 394894. All proceeds will go to the Sandville Self Help Centre.

Mynydd Cynydd Cynfig Junior School Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:
Megan Rees - Class 1, Nathan Chung - Class 2, Lucy Roach - Class 3, Sarah Berry - Class 4, Jose Gray & Megan Radmore - Class 5, Lucy Clark - Class 6 and Jay Buckley & Amy Ruck Class 7. The Headteacher's Award went to Oliver Roberts - Class 7.

Special Lunch.

Congratulations also go to the following pupils, who joined Mr Davies for a special lunch last Friday as a reward for their high standard of behaviour, including politeness to both staff and fellow pupils during lunchtimes last week:

Kian Thomas, Emily Cox, Mia Thomas, Brandon Gitsham, Eloise Abraham-Jones, Olivia Davies, Josef Gray, Zuzanna Kubala, Ewan Davis, Olivia Magness and Alex Parr.

winners - Sam (M) & Thomas (B) Flanagan & Erin Evans (B) - all Class 1, Callum Young (C) & Tara Bennett (C) - Class 2, Sam

Maddock (M) & Ellie Rees (C) - Class 3, Ben Jackson (B) & Lauren Howe (C) - Class 4, Cai Quarry (M) & Caitlin Thomas (C) - Class 5, Liam Evans (T), Shauna Lewis (B) & Paige Cochrane (T) - all Class 6 and Ryan Legg (C) & Eryn-Mae Franklyn (C) - Class 7. The final scores were - 1st Mynydd Y Castell (C) on 326 points - 2nd Mynydd Margam (M) on 316 points - 3rd Mynydd Baeden (B) on 283 points and 4th Mynydd Tytalwyn (T) on 207 points.

For further information of services in the Parish, ring either the Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500/07766 710373, or Gareth Gardner on 07779 239302.

Craft fair

Lazy Sunday Craft Fairs : If you are at a loose end this Sunday, March 17, why not join in the fun with 'Lazy Sunday Craft Fairs' who at

show, as well as a book signing session afterwards for those pupils who wish to purchase any of his books.

Parish of Pyle & Kenfig

Mothers Union - A Parish Quiet Evening will take place at St James' Church, Pyle on March 19 at 7 pm, led by the Rev'd Canon Nigel Cahill.

For further information of services in the Parish, ring either the Rev Dr Duncan Walker on 01656 740500/07766 710373, or Gareth Gardner on 07779 239302.

Craft fair

Lazy Sunday Craft Fairs : If you are at a loose end this Sunday, March 17, why not join in the fun with 'Lazy Sunday Craft Fairs' who at

Ynysawdre Community Centre, Bryn Road, Tondu between 12pm and 3pm?

There will be many stall holders selling various handmade items, ranging from jewellery, preserves, sweets and cakes plus many other beautiful craft gifts.

There will be a colouring competition to keep the young ones occupied while you pick up some bargain pre-Easter gifts.

There will also be a charity raffle with some great prizes, in aid of the Meningitis Trust.

Entry to the public is free; £12 for stallholders (in advance).

For more information, please call 01656 768253.

Pupils' Fairtrade treasure hunt

ST DAVID'S Church in Wales Primary, which is committed to supporting and using Fairtrade products, celebrated Fairtrade fortnight with a variety of events.

The Fairtrade committee led an assembly, asking the whole school to think about what they had eaten for breakfast.

Parents, grandparents and the local community to come in for a special coffee afternoon and as well as taking part in Fairtrade activities in our classroom, the children went on a Fairtrade treasure hunt around the school grounds.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

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service

the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Penfro areas and

Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Vale Council creates 'Mecca for wildlife'

THE Vale Council is creating a new pond at Cosmeston Lakes, which the rangers hope will become a Mecca for all kinds of amphibian and reptile wildlife, including the Great Crested Newt.

Work on the new pond started earlier this year, with ARC's south Wales habitat creation officer Peter Hill on hand to oversee the excavation.

The pond will be completed in time to attract frogs, toads and newts during early spring when the creatures start to lay their spawn.

Cosmeston already has Great Crested Newts on site, and the new pond will help to strengthen those populations, preventing them

from becoming isolated.

The Great Crested Newt is a threatened species in the UK and has been identified by the Government as a priority for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP).

Cosmeston Lakes secured a grant from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) to excavate a new pond and an area of will provide hibernacula (otherwise known as homes) to a whole host of amphibians.

A spokeswoman said: "if you're planning a trip to Cosmeston Lakes, take a moment to see how the new pond is progressing – it can be found on the left-hand side as you walk along the boardwalk leading from the car park to the medieval village."

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Men who guarded the Wall

THE Berlin Wall and its destruction was the subject of a GEM report recently of a talk by Mrs Jeanne Harvey, at Barry Men's Forum.

Being a frequent visitor beyond the 'Iron Curtain' since the late 1960s, I too visited both east and west Berlin on a number of occasions.

On October 7, 1989, I and others attended a dinner in London with the ambassador to Britain of the GDR/DDR (German Democratic Republic – East Germany). This was only a few weeks before he lost his ambassadorial position, his job, and his country. It was possibly one of the most boring dinners I have attended; the 'entertainment' consisted of extolling the virtues of economic progress in the GDR!

I must take issue with one part of the article, however; those fleeing over the Wall, or under the wire, were not 'killed by Soviet guards'.

They were killed or injured by fellow East German border guards and, if captured, put into the 'tender care' of the Stasi.

The 'Soviets', ie the Russians, although present in East Berlin, did not guard the wall; the East German security forces did that themselves.

Christopher Short, Barry.

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Are you aware of the threat to your local A&E services?

The Local Health Board is currently considering the future of the Accident & Emergency provision at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

Residents in the western Vale depend on the A&E services provided at the Bridgend hospital, as well as the intensive care and maternity services.

I've been contacted by many who are rightly concerned about how such essential care and treatment will be provided on a local basis, should the Health Board choose to close the units as part of their plans for healthcare provision in the future.

Constituents have expressed their very real worries about how the services currently provided at the Princess of Wales hospital could be downgraded.

The Princess of Wales, the Royal Glamorgan Hospital at Llantrisant and the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr are all in the running to be designated the regional centre. The two hospitals which fail will see services downgraded.

If the Princess of Wales does not become the regional centre, the current proposals have outlined that its A&E department will be downgraded to a minor injuries unit, the current doctor-led maternity unit will become a midwife-led unit and the children's ward will go – to be replaced by a paediatric assessment unit.

I cannot believe that if children, following assessment, need to be admitted, they will have to go to another hospital. This would be truly horrendous.



Vale MP Alun Cairns
reports to GEM readers

dous for the child or patient, during what would already be a very stressful time.

GEM readers will be aware that I have raised my concerns many times regarding the Welsh Government funding cuts of over half a billion pounds over the next three years in the Welsh NHS. In contrast, the UK Government is to grow its health spend in real terms over this parliamentary period.

From cancer care and treatment to missed ambulance waiting time targets, it's vital for the Welsh Government to support and invest in its NHS services.

It's ludicrous and frightening to think that mothers to be, heart attack and stroke victims and children will need to be ferried for many extra miles to Cardiff or Llantrisant, rather than the short distance to Bridgend.

The true cost of any reduction in

service provision will be paid by the people of the Vale and Bridgend areas should the Princess of Wales departments be downgraded.

I will be arranging a community round-table and cross-party meeting in Llantwit Major to discuss the issues, raised by the proposals and to plan for responses to the public consultation on the Health Board's plans.

Please do get in contact with me at my constituency office or at alun.cairns.mp@parliament.uk if you'd like to become involved in the campaign to secure the future of the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

The more people from the Vale that fight the proposals will ensure that the Health Board realise and continue to invest in the essential services provided at the PoW hospital.

As yet, there is no date confirmed for the publication of the south Wales programme proposals by the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board, other than it being noted as taking place in spring 2013.

Once published, there will be a period of public consultation, when it will be vital for supporters of the campaign to make their representations to the Health Board.

It's vital that as a community we are ready to help ensure that the residents and businesses of the western Vale can continue to receive excellent care and treatment locally.

I will be doing all I can to support the A&E, maternity and children's ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

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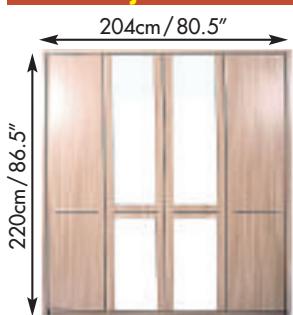


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ABOVE: Nancy plays at being a cowgirl!

Landmark year for our veteran community correspondent... THE GEM'S NANCY DAVIDGE OF LLANGAN - 90 NOT OUT!

LAST week, The GEM's community correspondent for Treoes, Llangan and St Mary Hill, Nancy Davidge, celebrated a personal milestone when she celebrated her 90th birthday.

Remarkably, Nancy has been with The GEM for almost 20 years, providing weekly news from her area for all that time – with the only interruptions for the occasional holiday.

Indeed, she often sends in news from Llangan Primary School – the very school she attended when she was just 10 years old!

However, despite her affection for the Vale, Nancy has not always lived in the area. She was born in Treahafod in the Rhondda Valley, where her parents ran a fish and chip shop.

Mum did most of the work running the shop, as her father was a wheelwright but, even with two sources of income, life in the valleys in the 1920s, with the depression at its worst, was very tough.

Eventually, her father packed up the chip shop equipment and the family headed for London, looking for a better life there. However, life was no easier. The East End of London was not a great place to bring up a young child, and it was the time of 'pea souper' fogs, all due to the air pollution of the time.

Nancy's mother was pining for the countryside in the Vale and so the family came back, taking a smallholding in Llangan, and living in the house that she lives in to this day.

So, a 10-year-old Nancy started at Llangan school and she still pops in once a week to see how the children are doing.

She said: "It is like going home. The school has changed so much but it still has the same feeling."

Nancy was 16 when World War Two broke out and, as she was living in Cardiff, she joined the Civil Defence. In the evenings throughout the war, she was an Air Raid Patrol (ARP) warden.

During the day she went to college, and then started work in the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) in Llanishen. She also learned to drive, joined the Fire Service and found time to drive a van for Dewhursts the butchers.

You might think that all this pretty much filled her days but she managed one other small thing. She met and married her husband!

Christopher Davidge was serving in the Royal Artillery and the courtship was interrupted (frequently) by his training. As with many other young couples, a time came when they had a decision to make, as Chris was due to be posted overseas.

Nancy said: "A lot of couples decided to wait until after the war, but Chris called to say that he had a few days' embarkation leave. He asked me to marry him and I accepted!"

That triggered a mad two-and-a-half weeks getting ready. Some of the girls from Dewhursts wanted to be bridesmaids, so dresses had to be made and all the other arrangements needed to be made.

The happy couple were married on a Saturday, had a one night honeymoon on the Sunday (in Chepstow) and Chris rejoined his regiment on the Wednesday.

He was to be away for three years and eight months.

A large contingent of Welsh soldiers were posted to India and Burma and many returned in terrible shape after being captured by the Japanese.

Chris escaped capture by the skin of his teeth. His unit was surrounded but, at the last minute, they were rescued by an



ABOVE: Wedding day in Cardiff for Nancy and husband Christopher.



ABOVE: Nancy leads family sing-song

amoured division.

£300,000!"

In one of those bizarre coincidences that seem to happen in wartime, he discovered after the war that his brother, George, was in the leading tank of that rescuing division!

Chris came home in 1945, but he did not get off scot free. His time in the tropics had left him with malaria, and Nancy had to watch him suffer through at least three harrowing attacks until he eventually recovered.

When that recovery was complete, it was time to earn a living in post-war Britain, and Chris became a railway fitter. Nancy followed him to London and eventually, they were able to buy their first home – in Stratford, where the London 2012 Olympic Stadium was built.

On the family side, she has one daughter, one grandson and three great grandchildren. Nancy said: "I have had a good life and have done many things that I have always wanted to.

"When I was little, I



ABOVE: Christopher and Nancy.

enough to head off to Moscow and see the sights there.

At home, she has seen many changes in the Vale. In her own village of Llangan, many of the old cottages have gone, and new houses have been built, but it still retains a village feel – with the community spirit that follows.

And wherever you have a community, it's great to have a community correspondent!

PHILIP IRWIN

Plaid tax rate move defeated

A Plaid Cymru motion to set a council tax rate of three per cent, in line with inflation and the Welsh average, was voted down when the Vale Council set their precept last week.

Plaid Cymru group leader Chris Franks said: "Where we run the council in Dinas Powys we have organised our finances so that we have not had to increase council tax this year. In contrast, Vale residents have a 4.8 per cent rise from the Vale of Glamorgan Council and a 7 per cent police precept rise from Labour's Police and Crime Commissioner."

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21st Jul	4 days	Santa Fe	Disneyland Paris	£249
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HOMES in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan are to benefit from over £1million pounds of household energy efficiency grants from the Welsh Government – as part of a £4.4m scheme announced by Environment Minister John Griffiths AM.

Welsh Government funding of £1,117,628 will “make over 180 homes in Bridgend and the Vale warmer and better to live in”. Eight other councils across Wales are also receiving funding.

Work has already begun on some schemes and all improvements are expected to have been made by the end of June.

Each project varies but examples of work include installing external wall insulation and energy efficient boilers.

The Minister said: “A continuing upward trend in fuel prices means we must do all we can to ensure that Welsh homes are fit for the future.

“The UK Government’s welfare reforms will have a huge and damaging effect on Wales, hitting the most vulnerable in our communities through to low-middle income families.

“We are committed to taking action that makes a real, sustainable difference to people across Wales. I am pleased that ten councils applied for funding and are now able to work with local communities to ensure homes are more comfortable and more affordable to heat.

“Our successful Arbed scheme is an example of sustainability in action – it brings social benefits, it supports the economy and it protects our environment.

“All projects receiving funding today will use Welsh-based installers or those that have offices here.”

The Welsh Government launched its Arbed scheme three years ago, to make homes more energy efficient. Since then, it says, more than £74m has been spent on measures to improve the energy efficiency of 8,500 homes in some of Wales’ most deprived areas.

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Vale tops the 'home improvements' league

ACCORDING to the latest research into planning applications in Wales by expert provider of market intelligence for the built environment, Barbour ABI, the Vale leads the top 10 home improvement districts.

Barbour ABI conducted an analysis across Wales, the English regions and Scotland.

The Vale came closest to the average across Great Britain of 1.64 applications for every 100 private homes with the council receiving an average of

1.47. It is regarded as a wealthy area in Wales with plenty to attract tourists so it is likely to see relatively more investment in home improvement.

Intriguingly, Blaenau Gwent, one of the poorer districts, jumped up to second in the Welsh league of home improvement areas in 2012.

Much of this increase appears to have been down to the energy saving initiatives leading to an increase in such improvements as external wall insulation.

The Vale has led the home improvements 'Welsh League' for three years now.

VALE PLANNING

Mr John Cox - 7

Norwood Crescent, Coldbrook, Barry -

Proposed single storey extension to form shower room and utility area.

Vale of Glamorgan Council - Various sites

at Five Mile Lane, Barry - Various side road junctions along Five Mile Lane (A4226).

Mr Raymond Colley - 18, Buckingham Place, Barry - A single storey extension which is to the rear elevation of the

property.

Mr Nick and Mrs

Rachael Brace - Llwyn On, Gwern y Steeple, Peterston Super Ely -

Proposed first floor side extension, new rear dormer and detached double garage.

Mrs Alison Warren - 1 Esgid Mair, Barry - Garage conversion.

Mr Ronald Cowley - Police House, 1 Old

Port Road, Penrhos - Retain as built dormer roof/roof conversion incorporating bed-

room/bathroom.

Southern part of the site of The Croft, Parc Newydd, Treoes -

Application to have legal agreement (ref 96/01123/OUT) rescinded to allow additional dwelling to be constructed on the land.

Mr James Bloomfield - Glenteifi, Railway Terrace, Penarth - Retain as built dormer

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Vale MP hits out over latest ambulance response times

VALE MP Alun Cairns has reacted with "anger and disappointment" – after only 61 per cent of urgent (category A) ambulance calls from the Vale arrived at their destination within the target eight-minute time in January, according to the latest data published.

Mr Cairns has called on the Welsh Health Minister and Welsh Government to respond. Out of 587 calls made to the Ambulance service, only 353 arrived within the designated time-frame. The target time is 65 per cent in Wales, although there is an expectation that 75 per cent should be met in England.

The Welsh Government's statistics service highlights show

as a factor during January. The last time the 65 per cent category A target was met was in May last year.

Mr Cairns said: "The Vale is missing out again. I fear particularly for areas like Llantwit and the villages around the western parts of the county.

"One constituent in the Vale who was suffering from breathing problems waited over an hour for an ambulance to arrive after an initial 999 call (identified as 'category A'). Another was a stroke victim, and a further patient was suffering from chest pains – all waited over an hour. The target time is eight minutes.

"Hardworking paramedics need to be backed up by fresh investment in response vehicles and smoother transition arrangements at hospitals to prevent ambulances being blocked up waiting to transfer patients.

"It is vital that we gain assurance from the Minister that the review of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust will deliver improved response times for our community.

"Despite the best efforts of dedicated ambulance staff, the service is not delivering

the

standard of service that patients expect and deserve.

"The number of urgent 999 calls answered by an ambulance within the target time dipped again during January. I have called for the Welsh Government to act on this matter many times over the last two years.

"It is vital that we gain assurance from the Minister that the review of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust will deliver improved response times for our community.

"Despite the best efforts of dedicated ambulance staff, the service is not delivering

YOU CAN'T GET MUCH LOWER THAN THIS..!

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum meeting last week was Dr Edward Hellewell, who has played in most of the great British orchestras during his 60 years.

He detailed how his parents had given him a viola for his seventh birthday, which was a

disappointment to him as he was hoping for a Hornby train set!

Nevertheless, four years later he gave his first concert in south Yorkshire, and in fact became a professional musician at that point, as he was paid the handsome sum of £1.

At the age of 13, he joined the local colliery band and transferred to the trombone, before being persuaded to change to the largest of the stringed instruments, the double bass.

Dr Hellwell had brought along to the Forum his new three quarter size double bass, which even so still weighed 28lbs, and he had named it 'Wilf'. He had recently had made in Austria a copy of an 18th century instrument from Maple and Spruce, and it was valued at £20,000.

He explained it was in need of 'playing in', and he hoped the Forum members would not be too critical of the tone of the new instrument, whose tone will improve with age.

He then went on to demonstrate a number of orchestral pieces where the double bass is the foremost instrument. He completed his interesting talk and performances with Saint Saens' 'The Elephant' from *The Carnival of the Animals*.

New members Nigel Vick and Martin Riggott were welcomed by the chairman. All are welcome to come along to The Barry Men's Forum which meet at Windsor Road Church Hall every Thursday morning at 10.15am.

On March 21, the speaker will be Rosemary Scadden whose talk is entitled 'I was Harry Secombe's Stand-in.' For further information contact the chairman, Peter Westcott, on 02920 594881. PMW

Transport police chief for Wales

BRITISH Transport Police (BTP) has announced the appointment of a Superintendent for the Welsh sector, Andy Morgan, who spent 29 years with South Wales Police, in a variety of roles, most recently as Chief Inspector of Operations for the Bridgend borough.

Wales and Western Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Peter Davies, said: "Andy was very highly thought of at South Wales Police and his promotion to Superintendent with BTP will enhance and improve our service delivery throughout Wales."

Mr Morgan, aged 47, said he was excited about his new role and was looking forward to further strengthening BTP's role within UK

policing. He describes himself as "an operational officer through and through", and lives in Porthcawl with his wife and 12-year-old daughter.

A proud Welsh speaker, he was educated at Ysgol Gyfun Llanharri.

While acknowledging the differences between the four Welsh police forces and BTP, Mr Morgan was also keen to point out the key aims and objectives remain the same.

"I've moved from a localised police service in south Wales, dictated day-to-day by defined geographical boundaries, to a nationwide force that operates across borders," he added.

"At the end of the day, however, we all form part of a UK police service."

A wee bit of help from the Vale Mayor



Vale Mayor, Coun Eric Hacker, and Rowan Hughes, with a photo of the toilet in Burundi.

IN 2009, two international charities, Cord and Tearfund, launched a Toilet Twinning project to provide toilets to villages in Burundi and Cambodia.

The charities wished to highlight the need for safer sanitation in the world's poorest countries.

Coun Hacker said: "In rural Burundi, less than half the population has access to a loo and for just £60 we have been able to help the people in Giharo, Burundi to have access to safe sanitation."

Since 2009, more than 1,600 latrines have been built in Burundi, providing safe loos for nearly 10,000 people.

Rowan explained: "Having seen some of the facilities in Rwanda,

joining the Skyliners Dance Band. When he went to university he joined the orchestra, playing the trombone, before being persuaded to change to the largest of the stringed instruments, the double bass.

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"Surely the 'white elephant' cycle track along Port Road, Barry that no-one seems to use should have been lesson enough?"

What happened to simple prudence?

Marc White

Llanmaes

Penarth Computer Club news PASSING THE ATTITUDE TEST

DO you have attitude? Not in your face, aggressive kind, but the right approach to life's challenges? It is said that everyone hates change; it can certainly be a bit of a pain, but it depends on your attitude towards it.

Two instances spring

to mind. Whenever a client brought to one of my bosses a job that involved applying an expertise we didn't have, he didn't turn it away, he grasped it as an opportunity to learn something new, and we made the effort, supplied the result and expanded the range of services the firm could provide.

I learnt from another source that, when faced with what most people would consider a problem, life is easier if one treated it as an inconvenience and adjusted ones mindset to suit.

Both these ideas have immediate relevance these days, as so much change is taking place in so many aspects of life – especially in the digital worlds of computing and communications.

To find out more about toilet twinning, go to www.toilettwinning.org.

Do we welcome the chance to learn new skills, or ignore the developments and hope that they pass us by?

The answer might depend on the perceived effort required to obtain a satisfactory reward (i.e. skill). The snag with this line of thinking is a tendency to exaggerate the effort and diminish the value of a reward that has yet to be experienced. It might be the other way around.

Familiarising yourself with a new machine is usually rewarding because the new machine is quicker and more powerful. Learning your way around a new operating system and new applications will take longer for the benefits to become obvious.

We are used to reminding users that the first things they learn are probably not the best way to do things and to seek out more options to find more efficient methods. It's the right attitude.

Computer manufacturers are in competition and need to produce improvements to stay in business. They need to convince customers that new products are better.

To get a more detached view it is worth reading independent reviews and customers' comments.

The sheer numbers of users and the pace of development means that there will be many users

taking the new stuff on board because their old kit simply has to be replaced.

The press will quickly be reporting general impressions and you can take advantage of users' experiences.

Do not fear the new advances, but pay attention to the benefits that will come your way.

You might not need more than you have, but if your machine is getting too old or the applications are no longer supported you will be happier if you welcome the improvements, even at the cost of having to work harder for a while.

When all is said and done, think about your attitude and act accordingly.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 26 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30 pm. Kevin S will be showing how to use Powerpoint. See our website at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk. Howard Desmond

EGG HEAD!

On Friday, while the pupils of Y Bont Faen Primary were happily celebrating World Book Day, a strange object appeared within the grounds... a rather large egg!

Everyone came to look at the egg and tried hard to deduce what type of creature could have laid the egg.

There were some clues... the egg was laid in a rather well-built nest and there was a glittery trail of prints leading from the egg to the far off reaches of the school grounds.

What could it be?

The pupils spent the day creating stories, news reports, documentaries and animations based on the egg's sudden appearance - with some Year 6 investigators trying to expose the 'truth' on camera, in a very Jeremy Paxman-esque style, that the egg was placed there by one of the staff - namely, Mr. Griffiths!

The whole school was buzzing with the possibilities of the mysterious egg – so much so, that the work will continue on this mystery for the next few weeks.

The day formed part of a wider literacy drive, which Y Bont Faen has been working on for over a year with Big Writing and the new National Framework for Literacy.

The pupils' work will be available online shortly

What do you think of 20mph speed limit?

RESIDENTS in the Vale are to be asked for their views on 20mph zones for Penarth and Llandough.

The consultation opens on March 18 in the wake of a report presented at a Vale Council cabinet meeting in Penarth on January 21, which raised the possibility of creating 20mph zones in Penarth and Llandough.

Cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, Coun Lis Burnett, said: "The idea was initially raised by residents in both Penarth and Llandough and so we want to understand local people's thoughts about possible 20mph zones in Penarth and Llandough.

"The consultation will be open to all residents and will feel more like a conversation in which we will only seek to find out if residents generally welcome the idea and whether there is support for an in-depth investigation into the viability of a 20mph zone or zones.

"Detail such as where any zones might begin and end, how they would be implemented and so forth, would only

be looked at if residents tell us that's what they want, and would of course require careful planning and further consultation."

WE continually hear how hard up the Vale is for finances and that Council Tax will need to rise above the inflation rate or critical services will have to be cut.

Why then are large amounts of money being spent fussing with existing footpaths at many of our road junctions, typically the traffic lights at Llanmaes Road junction, Llanllwyt Major.

To cap it all, some of the work is being accomplished on a Sunday, presumably on premium rate?

Surely the 'white elephant' cycle track along Port Road, Barry that no-one seems to use should have been lesson enough?

What happened to simple prudence?

Marc White

Llanmaes

Daffs and dancing on St David's Day

BUNCHES of daffodils gave the Community Hall a festive air as Rhoose WI president Jenny Reed welcomed members to a St David's Day celebration.

Members were reminded of a number of forthcoming events, including the spring council meeting at Porthcawl on April 29. They also learned that two members were in hospital and visits were arranged.

Nominations for the committee were asked for prior to the AGM in May. After business was concluded, the guest for the evening was welcomed; Eleanor Macnamara, a fellow member from St Athan WI, who introduced everyone to the delights of Welsh folk dancing.

A great time ensued, with members performing with enthusiasm, and there was much hilarity as the sets tried to keep time and remember the steps!

Our teacher was very patient and everyone enjoyed the experience. During a break, when Welsh cakes and bara

brith were served, a booklet containing the entries for the annual limerick competition was circulated.

Afterwards, a further dance was attempted and then Eleanor entertained the gathering with extracts from Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood*.

Eileen Eeles thanked Eleanor for an entertaining evening. Finally, the winners of the competition and the raffle were announced with Barbara Goodway winning the former, with her photograph depicting 'Welsh Life'. The raffle was won by Beryl Lang.

The next meeting will take place on April 4 at 7.30pm in the

Community Hall, Stewart Road, when members will model fashions supplied by Samantha B of Ewenny. New members and visitors will be very welcome.

Forthcoming events: March 2 at 6pm – dinner at The Six Bells, Penmarch; March 22 at 2pm – skittles at Rhoose Social Club and afterwards tea and cake at Coffee Time; every Tuesday at 11am, coffee and chat.

The pupils' work will be available online shortly

Out and About with The GEM

TRIP TO OZ IS A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter @GEMScreenTalk

Vale Brass Band springs into 2013!

ON March 4, the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band under Dave Short, started their 2013 season with a spring concert at the Dinas Powys Parish Hall.

The audience, which included Coun Jeff James (band president) received the concert well.

It was supported by the Barry Choral Society (under Emma Arscott) and the Vale training band (Chris Murray).

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YOU would have to be pretty hard-hearted not to love the wonderful *Wizard of Oz*.

Even at 74 years of age, the film is a truly mesmerising example of cinema, and has rightly stood the test of time.

So it would take a brave filmmaker to approach that world again – but Sam Raimi is one such director, handling helming duties on a prequel of sorts, Oz The Great and

Powerful. James Franco plays Oscar, a Kansas stage magician who finds himself blown away in a hot air balloon by a hurricane to the land of Oz.

When he gets there, he finds himself lauded as the great magician who has come to save the people of Oz, something complicated by three witches, Theodora (Mila Kunis), Evanora (Rachel Weisz) and Glinda (Michelle Williams) who all have their own motives with Oscar...

It's difficult enough to approach a sequel or prequel to a film, without having the pressures of trying to match something as beloved as *The Wizard of Oz*:

1985's *Return To Oz* was a poor film that looked even worse when compared with the 1939 classic – so there must have been plenty of chutzpah in Sam Raimi's decision to dig into the origins of the titular wizard in Oz The Great and Powerful.

Thankfully, for both Raimi and the multitude of fans of *The Wizard of Oz* (this writer among them), the film is wonderfully entertaining, respectful of the original film, but one that works on its own terms and plays out with a joyous twinkle.

Raimi has always been a director not afraid to let the camera work its magic (just see his work on the original

Evil Dead or, on a bigger budget, the transformation of Doctor Octopus in *Spiderman 2*), and coupled with a world as vivid as Oz and 3D technology, he creates a film visually gorgeous and breathtaking, looking absolutely glorious.

As Life of Pi and Avatar showed, the more vividly colourful a film, the better the end result with 3D, and the same rule applies here, the film leaping off the screen in places – but done with subtlety and style, the film immersive without feeling too gimmicky.

There are plenty of nods to the 1939 film contained within, some all too apparent and others little kernels that are

for the die-hards – but all lend a magical atmosphere in keeping with The Wizard..., the care and reverence all pervading and more than welcome.

The performances by the cast are also a cut above the usual family fare, with James Franco shining in the lead role.

Certainly his character and his arc are well-worn, but Franco, who is on an impressive run of form of late, gives Oscar plenty of life, ably supported by Zach Braff, pulling double-duty as Oscar's assistant and an unbelievably cute CGI monkey with the best lines, the pair giving the film a great energy.

The witches bring

their usual sheen of

class, Weisz relishing playing the mischievous Evanora and Williams giving the angelic Glinda a glint of mischief; Mila Kunis has arguably the most weight to carry, but her performance is just as enjoyable as the others, the film well-acted across the board.

The performances by the cast are also a cut above the usual family fare, with James Franco shining in the lead role.

While the script struggles to match the inventiveness of Raimi's direction, feeling a little too predictable and playing a little too broadly at times, it doesn't distract from how enjoyable a piece it is, and it should also be noted that it has to work within the confines of The Wizard... due to its nature.

All in all, however, Oz The Great and

Powerful makes for a great companion piece and other trips to Oz would be a more than welcome experience if Raimi and Co. stay on board.

VERDICT - Oz The Great and Powerful is well-titled, a superb film that is a magical cinematic experience. Undemanding but faithful to the 1939 film, and with superb direction from Sam Raimi and strong turns, this is one trip well worth taking. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: The Wizard of Oz (1939), Alice In Wonderland (2010)

New choir's first concerts

LAST Saturday and Sunday, Penarth's new ladies' choir, Allegro, under musical director Ray Dibble, performed their first two concerts.

A spokesman said:

"What an exciting two evenings this proved to be, with superb vocal arrangements covering a range of music from 'You Raise Me Up' to 'If I Loved You' from Carousel."

The audiences loved

every minute, with Mark

Thompson introducing

the items in his usual

fun-filled delivery.

"The choir was joined

by opera singer, Luther

Vaughan, who gave a

mix of operatic

favourites and songs

from *Les Misérables*.

In contrast 12-year-old Jack Sullivan, who is already under theatrical manage-

ment, thrilled with 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' and 'Where Is Love' from *Oliver*.

"The programme included a selection of Welsh favourites, with a touch of Ivor Novello sung superbly by Catherine Howard, and a touch of *Porgy and Bess*

from Jenny Harvey, both members of the choir.

"We look forward to more evenings like this with Allegro (Penarth Voices In Harmony)."

For more information on joining the choir, telephone 029 20217681.

Vale festival

THE Vale of Glamorgan Festival takes place from May 9-18, and will feature six world premieres and seven European premieres.

These will include new works by composers Sebastian Currier, Graham Fitkin, and Ramunas Motiekaitis, choral commissions by Galina Grigorieva, Aaron

Kernis and John Metcalf plus the first public performance of Heartland Percussion Concerto by BBC National Orchestra of Wales' Composer in Residence, Mark Bowden.

Full information on festival events is available from www.valeofglamorganfestival.org.uk. Tickets are available from www.valeofglamorganfestival.ticketsource.co.uk or by calling 00844 8700 887.



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WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

Surgery change

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery tomorrow, Friday, March 15 (and NOT as previously advertised, on March 22).

The surgery will be held at The Gathering Place St Athan CF62 4JH from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Penarth surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery on March 15 at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1 pm and 2 pm.

Residents who have any issues of concern, to them or their local community, are encouraged to go along. No appointment necessary.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town councillors for Buttrills and court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan, will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, March 16, from 10 am till 11.30 am in the meeting room of Barry Library Kings Square.

No appointment necessary.

St Brides Major celebration

Saturday, March 16, sees the first anniversary of the grand opening of the community library at St Brides Major.

A spokeswoman said:

"Our local author, Leela

Cavatina concert

'DIAL M for Music' is the theme of Cavatina Singers' next concert on Saturday, March 23 starting at 3 pm in All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

Pieces will include madrigals, motets, Magnificat (Vivaldi) and composers such as Mendelssohn, Mozart and Morten Lauridsen.

Soloists from the Royal Welsh college of Music and Drama; tickets £7 (students £5) available at the door.

Palm Sunday

TO mark Palm Sunday on March 24, All Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be holding a family service at 10 o'clock.

There will be worship items suitable for all ages and refreshments are served afterwards. Creche facilities available.

All are welcome. Visit www.all saints penarth.org.uk.

Virtuoso recital

ON April 4 organist Penny Weedon-Kerr will appear at 7.30 pm in All Saints church, Barry, in a bid to help raise over £70,000 for vital organ repairs.

The appeal now stands at £64,000 since the launch in May 2011.

She will be performing on her Tyros keyboard under the heading 'An Orchestra at my Fingertips'.

Tickets are priced at £5 adults and £2.50 for children, available from Ann Elliott on 01446 745997, or payable on the door.

Schools compete to be Youth Speaks champions



The intermediate contestants.



The senior contestants.

IN a contest organised by Rotary, 51 contestants from 15 schools across south Wales came together on March 8 to fight out the title for Youth Speaks Champions, south Wales.

The venue was Barry and Vale College and the competition was held in two age groups, with intermediates representing those aged 11 to 14, and seniors 15 to 17.

In a tightly-fought contest with teams of chairman, speaker, and proposer of the vote of thanks, St John Lloyd Catholic Comprehensive School in Llanelli were deemed the winners.

But the team of Nia Fenn, Lois Aled, and

ROBIN PITCHER

£1,500 Rotary gift for brain injury centre

ON February 23, the president of the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys, Gerard Crosby and fellow Rotarian, Neil Gaskell, visited Headway Cardiff's Day Centre - to present them with a cheque for £1,500.

Gerard had nominated Headway Cardiff as his charity of the year, in recognition of the work they do with his brother, Kevin, who sustained a brain injury following a haemorrhage nearly three years ago.

Gerard said: "Kevin is no longer able to work, but needs to be challenged and stimulated in an environment that understands the subtle cognitive and emotional difficulties that he now experiences."

"His Friday at Headway is central to his week, and we have seen

some of the old Kevin return since he has been attending.

"It also means that he has support from others who really understand what he has, and is going through, which is important when life changes so dramatically."

Headway Cardiff has provided support to hundreds of people with a brain injury each year for over 30 years - but still there is a lack of services for survivors and their families.

Julie Smith, general manager of Headway Cardiff, said: "Whilst surgical and medical interventions continue to improve, and the numbers of people surviving injuries each year increases, the services that help people achieve the highest level of independence and the best

quality of life possible are underfunded or, in worst cases, ignored."

Some hives feel decidedly lighter than others and over the years this method has enabled me to plan a course of action. You can take the roof off if you desire, as roofs can add considerably to the weight. In the event that I do remove a roof, I do not disturb the crown board at all.

At present, some of the colonies are having their stores supplemented by me as a result of my rudimentary weighing exercise, using either

Getting prepared for the spring at Fonmon Apiary

SPRING is definitely trying to put in an appearance; however, the cold easterly winds are going to hold back any activity so far as the bees are concerned.

The lengthening daylight hours are certainly stimulating the colonies but, until the temperatures show a decided rise not much exterior activity will be on show.

At present my main concern is the food stores, or as the case may be, the lack of them. The bees are definitely active within the hives and, of course, this activity means that energy is required.

To provide the energy, the bees depend on the food stores within the hive and as they diminish, the bees could very easily starve. It is up to the beekeeper to prevent this occurring.

How can this be done? My approach is to go to the rear of the hive and slip my fingers underneath the base and by gently raising it whilst applying a forward tipping motion, this action will provide me with a very rough indication as to the hive's total contents ie bees and stores.

Some hives feel decidedly lighter than others and over the years this method has enabled me to plan a course of action. You can take the roof off if you desire, as roofs can add considerably to the weight. In the event that I do remove a roof, I do not disturb the crown board at all.

At present, some of the colonies are having their stores supplemented by me as a result of my rudimentary weighing exercise, using either

ready rolled strips of icing sugar or a superior product called Ambrosia Sugar Dough, both of these products will provide the bees with a ready to eat energy source and help to stave off starvation.

To add this supplementary food, I need to remove the roof and the crown board, being as gentle as I can so that I do not cause any undue disturbance. I then lay strips of said feed directly onto the frames and reassemble the hive.

Several hives have a tray beneath the open mesh floor. When I withdraw a tray, the debris pattern, ie straight lines of wax cappings on the floor of the tray, indicate where the bees are in the hive - and, of course, informs me that they are uncapping and consuming previously stored nectar or the liquid sugar I may have fed to them in the previous autumn. With the debris

mites; all of this debris I remove and put it into marked containers for closer inspection and the counting of the dead mites.

This counting of mites is not a legal requirement, but it does give me an indication as to the level of infestation the bees are confronted with. The control of the Varroa mite has to be a prime function of every beekeeper.

Until better conditions prevail, I shall carry on preparing and cleaning as much equipment as I can, ready to meet the requirements of each of the colonies that are in my care.

Should fair weather be our lot, the bees will step up their activity and will not wait for me at all.

Take heed of the Scouts' motto - BE PREPARED!

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D765.

- £2,000: 341044.
- The rollover, which now stands at £10,000, was not won this week.

- £10: 6 0 8 7 7 0, 933165, 566654, 256929, 339297, 871241, 947143, 144225, 285568, 692310, 538432, 978572, 799040, 484187, 31039, 386975, 800741, 508341, 728959, 284867.
- £5: 459978, 676491, 250395, 781095, 416022, 604226, 793253, 190773, 507963, 818137, 346919, 534007, 221935.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please telephone 029 2053 2300.

'Diving board rock' provides photo opportunity for the Vale Ramblers

A GROUP of 14 walkers set out from Llanfrynnach, near Brecon, for a strenuous 10 mile, strenuous walk up onto Bwlch y Ddwyallt - and around the rim of the huge Cwm Oergwm to Fan-y-Big.

The weather was not very kind. Temperatures had been very low overnight and the ground was frozen solid.

The cloud was down and so no one of the magnificent views were seen as we made our way up.

We had two new walkers with us, but both proved to be well 'up to the job'.

We found a sheltered spot for lunch and sat on the ice-encrusted ground, occasionally catching a glimpse of the sun, struggling to make its way through the cloud.

As we reached Fan-y-Big the visibility suddenly improved and Cribyn appeared to the west.

A pair of brave young girls took turns posing for photos, perched on the 'diving board' rock which juts frighteningly



Walkers make their way through the gloom.

out over the sheer drop. They were also rather foolhardy as they had walked up without a map and realised that, in following us, they were coming down on the northern flank with about six miles extra to get back to their car at Talybont.

This was solved by the offer of a lift from one of our group. With excellent views now developing around us perhaps we had forgotten to watch the slippery ground, which caught Gwenda unawares and resulted in a broken ankle.

The group rallied round. Most of us made

Unfortunately the Swan in Llanfrynnach had just closed when we got there, but we had enjoyed an exhilarating day and again appreciated the mountains.

For more information visit www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk. We're also on Facebook and Twitter.

Leigh Forman

It's Wales V England (for Bowel Cancer UK) before Grand Slam decider!



Alun Cairns MP and Andrew RT Davies AM will be on opposing sides when the Welsh Assembly rugby team takes on the Commons and Lords this Saturday. They are pictured with a representative of Bowel Cancer UK, the charity benefiting from the match.

THE charity, Bowel Cancer UK, will be the winner when a National Assembly for Wales' team takes on the Commons and Lords for the annual Parliamentary Cup this Saturday.

The match takes place at Cardiff Quins RFC, Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch, at 11 am. Entry is free of charge, with donations going to the charity.

Normally, Conservatives Andrew RT Davies AM and Alun Cairns MP are on the same side, but this time they are in opposition.

Andrew RT Davies told The GEM: "Since our first match, the Assembly team have raised well over £10,000 for

Save The Children
'SEREN FACH' cafe in Well Street, Porthcawl is supporting Save The Children for the month of April, by selling raffle tickets - and leaflets will also be available to find out more about the work Save The Children carries out in Wales, as well as other countries.



GEM RURAL PROFILE

Seasonal Country and Farming Update



CRC funding helps to boost projects across the rural Vale

FROM projects that aim to attract visitors to the Vale, to schemes that enhance services for local communities, Creative Rural Communities (CRC), the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative, is offering a variety of grants to communities and rural businesses.

Over the past 12 months, Creative Rural Communities, supported by the Rural Partnership, has invested £1,075,000 in supporting 57 innovative projects and ideas which have improved the long term social and economic wellbeing of the rural Vale.

It has been stated that one of the keys to success of Creative Rural Communities is that it is

administered locally by the Vale Council, but led by a multi-sector partnership where local people are able to steer the direction of funding and strategy to fit the needs of the rural Vale.

Phil Chappell, of Creative Rural

Communities, explained: "The range of proj-

ects that have previously received funding

Communities just high-

lights the wealth and

diversity of what the

rural Vale has to offer.

"Building on the

success of 2012, we are

currently awarding

funding to support a

range of diverse proj-

ects from community

groups wishing to

grow their own food

under

our

'Community Foodie'

programme, to new

and existing initiatives

that encourage

tourism in the Vale.

"We also have

grants of up to £40,000

available to support

new footpaths to link

villages, people and

places, as well as

grants of up to £40,000

available to support

the enhancement of

existing services to rural pubs, shops and community venues.

"Funding to date has made a considerable difference to both services and amenities for local residents and potential tourists.

"We look forward to receiving applications for a range of new and exciting projects and ideas under our various funding programmes."

Vale residents, groups and businesses can find out more about funding opportunities by visiting the Creative Rural Communities team at Old Hall, Cowbridge High Street or by calling 01446 704754, or emailing create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

For more information on Creative Rural Communities visit: www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk.

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GEM RURAL PROFILE

Seasonal Country and Farming Update



Rural pub sees advantage in providing extra service

A father and son from Barry have converted a local pub in picturesque Llanblethian, near Cowbridge, to include a new convenience-store service for the community with the help of a grant from Creative Rural Communities (CRC).

While an increasing number of local pubs are being bought out by major supermarket branches, the Cross Inn has been given a new lease of life thanks to funding from CRC, the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative, and advice and support from 'Pub is The Hub', the rural pubs organisation.

CRC's Rural Hubs grant scheme aims to diversify existing services, such as local pubs and community spaces, in order to offer new and improved services, as well as creating and securing a future for vibrant community hubs.

Since 2001, Pub is The Hub has encouraged local communities, licensees and pub owners to work in partnership to support, retain and locate local services, wherever possible, within the one place that is accessible, open and welcoming; the local pub.

The grant awarded to the Cross Inn, the first pub in the rural Vale to benefit from a CRC Rural Hubs grant, has enabled Arthur O'Leary and his son, Liam, to carry out the necessary renovations to launch the convenience-store service, including the construction of an oak cabinet, refrigeration, lighting and new signage to promote the new facility to locals and visitors.

The new service will enable customers to purchase home-made produce directly from the kitchen at Cross Inn, as well as other produce supplied from neighbouring farms and local providers. The pub will also stock a range of everyday essentials including milk, bread and sugar.

After 30 years serving as a landlord in a public house in Barry, Arthur O'Leary saw an opportunity to expand the existing facilities at Cross Inn in Llanblethian, which include a bar and restaurant.



and increase what's on offer for the local community.

He said: "Having worked in the industry for a number of years, Liam and I recognised the increasing demand for services which make life easier for members of the community. By creating a convenience-store service at Cross Inn, we hope to attract villagers in to pick up those everyday items that they need as well as encouraging them to stop for a drink or something to eat."

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Porthcawl regeneration: Council 'reg-negotiating' owners' agreement

BRIDGEND County Borough Council has confirmed that it is re-negotiating the owners' agreement with the private owners of land needed for Porthcawl regeneration.

Regional AM Byron Davies submitted a Freedom of Information request to BCBC about what was happening to the agreement in the wake of the decision by Tesco to withdraw from the project.

The council signed an owners' agreement with the two Evans families in 2011, which set out what each party could expect to receive from the sale of land for the regeneration scheme which included a new supermarket and flats at Salt Lake and houses at Sandy Bay.

Under the terms of that agreement, the Evans were due to get a total of £15-£5m for phase 1, which is Salt Lake, and £10m for Sandy Bay.

Prices were based on land valuations carried out in 2007, before the credit crunch, and the council was warned by independent surveyors before it signed the agreement that it could take up to

20 years for land values to rise back to 2007 levels. The duration of the agreement was 20 years.

In their response to Mr Davies, the council said that the owners' agreement is being renegotiated as a result of the council's decision to adopt a different marketing strategy for the regeneration project.

The council went on: "Naturally, utilisation of a different marketing strategy will lead to different amounts of money being received at different times. Accordingly, until the plots of land are exposed to the market, it will not be known what money is being received."

"Nevertheless, the valuation principles for the land will remain the same."

The council also failed to rule out any involvement by Tesco in a future project, but agreed that it was uncertain at present how much money would be stipulated for the other owners.

Mr Davies, Welsh Conservative regional AM for south Wales west, said that his only concern was to ensure that the council taxpayers of Bridgend received a fair return on the land that the council was putting into

the project: "With the withdrawal of Tesco from the project, although the council seems to be saying that the door is still open for them, there is a need to make sure that council taxpayers are not short-changed as a result of an agreement which was based on land values from the boom times of six years ago."

"My other concern is that we are unlikely to know whether the council has succeeded in getting a good deal for taxpayers. They kept all the previous figures a secret. It was the press that revealed what had been agreed."

"It is my fear that the council will again cite commercial confidentiality as reason for not disclosing what returns the council taxpayer will get from any new scheme that takes place."

"In my view, that is indefensible. We are talking here of publicly owned assets and the public of Porthcawl in particular has a right to know what they are being sold for. Otherwise, how can people judge if the council has acted properly and in their best interests?"

"When the time comes, I will be pressing for this figure to be disclosed."

CRIME NEWS

Woman (94) is robbed

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for information following a burglary at the home of a 94-year-old woman, in Ewenny Road at around 4.45pm on Friday, March 8.

A handbag containing a purse and other personal belongings was stolen.

Police are appealing to anyone who saw a man matching the following description in the area at the time.

He is described as white, aged 40-60, 5ft 6ins to 5ft 8ins in height, with light or greying hair. He was wearing a blue top with a hood.

Contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

2012 assault: police renew appeal for help

POLICE in Bridgend this week renewed their appeal for information, following a serious assault almost 12 months ago on Thursday, March 15.

It follows the arrest of a 21-year-old man on suspicion of assault, who has been released on police bail pending further investigation.

Police said the incident took place at around 6.50pm, when a 64-year-old man was seriously assaulted while walking on the cycle path behind Brynddu Road and Caer Wetral. He sustained serious facial injuries and was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Detective Inspector David Rees from Bridgend CID said: "It is almost a year since this assault took place

and I am asking if anyone can remember what they were doing on March 15 last year and can remember seeing anything suspicious in the area to contact us."

"No matter how small or minor you may think your information may be, please contact the police."

"Kenfig Hill is a close knit community, where incidents of this nature are very unusual. Someone, somewhere, must know this individual or have further information."

"If anyone witnessed the incident, noticed anything suspicious that day, or knows somebody matching the man's description, we urge them to contact us."

Telephone Bridgend CID on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 and quote reference 6212008527.

Can you help bridge mum's 70-year gap?

I WONDER if any of your readers can recall a family called Gwynn-Davies (possibly Davies?) who lived in Cowbridge during the Second World War?

While stationed in south Wales, she met John and remembers visiting the family's detached home in Cowbridge during the height of the war, where the young officer lived with his parents (apparently John's father was a solicitor in the area).

My interest in trying to trace John Gwynn Davies has been enlivened by the fact that it is almost 70 years since they last saw each other and I would dearly love to be able to tell my mother on her 91st birthday what became of her brief wartime beau.

As a young nurse during that difficult time, she cared for countless battle casualties and found herself posted to a number of locations around the country. Among the military personnel she met, one clearly stood out.

A friendship developed between her and an RAF officer called John Gwynn Davies who lived in Cowbridge. My mother has frequently referred to this dashing airman who, even to this

date, remains the subject of discussion in our family.

John Gwynn Davies is

now 91 years old and

lives in a nursing home in

Cardiff.

I have become

intrigued by the enigmatic airman. Can anyone shed any light on Mr Davies? If so, please

could they contact me

either by telephone

07758 835517 or via e-

mail: wilkinsonson-

mon893@gmail.com

Simon Wilkinson,

Keighley,

West Yorkshire.

Bridgend chess news round-up

BRIDGEND B lost to Caerfatri's second team 3-2 in Division 4 of the East Glamorgan chess league.

Caerfatri, who are in second place in Division 4, now have a 4.5 point lead over Bridgend B in third place, though Bridgend B have a game in hand and could yet overtake Caerfatri.

With Caerfatri's first team on top with 51

WATERWHEEL MAY PROVIDE ANOTHER FIRST FOR CHURCH

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A waterwheel may be installed in the stream outside the historic church of St Illtyd's if a new scheme gets the go-ahead.

The aim is to produce electricity for the church's heating and lighting.

Steve George, who lives in Llantwit Major and is behind the initiative, explained: "The local church council has given permission to look into the idea before permission is sought from the planning authority, CADW, the Environment Agency, Health and Safety and local town planning."

Mr George said that although there were periods when there would not be enough water to drive the wheel, the productive periods would far outweigh any fallow periods.

"The stream rarely dries up, but even if it did for one month, it will still produce electricity for 11 months of the year."

"St Illtyd's Church is

the oldest seat of learning in the United Kingdom – perhaps it could be the first to be powered by water.

"The church is closed during the night, and therefore the electricity produced during this time could be sold to the National Grid."

The waterwheel would power a generator through a gear box.

Mr George accepts that a number of obstacles have to be overcome and appealed to people who may have specialist knowledge in waterwheels and electrical generation.

"The design of the waterwheel, technical problems, electricity cables, water flow rate, are all problems that need expertise provided on."

"If anyone has expertise and is willing to provide assistance in a voluntary capacity, please contact me on 07890 326888."

If Mr George gets the help he needs, he plans to form a committee to take the idea forward.



St Illtyd's Church which one day may have its electricity provided by a waterwheel.



Community News Treoe, Llangan & St Mary Hill Your local correspondent is Nancy David, 'Tynewydd', Llangan. (01656) 860303

local residents walking their dogs.

Garden centre

ONCE again, proposals have come to the fore regarding the development of the former garden centre, situated on the Pencoed-Pentre Meurig road. I hope to have the full details in my column in next week's GEM.

My birthday (90 years!)

MAY I, through my column, thank everyone for the cards, flowers and chocolates which I received on my 90th birthday on March 6, along with a celebration on Thursday, March 7 at the Young at Heart Club, flowers and birthday cake, and my friends at The GEM.

My heartfelt thank you to you all, and I hope I can continue my tiny bitsy news until I receive my special birthday card from the Queen!

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

Culture mix on Welsh Saint's day!



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Cultural mix with a Welsh flavour at the 41 Club dinner.



the Blacksmith's Arms at Llanmaes.

Other ex-Round Tablers in the area (who might wish to join in the fellowship of the club) can contact it via the National Association of ex-Round Tablers' Clubs' website (www.41Club.org), following the links to Llantwit Major.

WICK Chapel held a Mothering Sunday service on March 10, remembering all members of the chapel and mothers.

WICK Horticultural Society held their AGM in the village hall on March 8 and to make arrangements for the coming season.

THE collection of green garden waste bags will now commence from March 22 and then on alternate weeks to the black bags.

OGMORE Retired Residents held their meeting at All Saints, Southerndown, on March 7, when the speaker was Linda Feagan, of the Bridgend Dogs Trust, who brought along her own rescue dog, Ruby – a three-year-old King Charles spaniel.

The retired residents will be holding their AGM on March 21 at All Saints, Southerndown, at 2pm. Please make every effort to attend.

THE village market was held last Saturday at the church hall, with extra stalls. The ladies were kept busy making up bunches of daffodils, courtesy of Slade Southerndown, ready for the church Mothering Sunday service.

AT Mothering Sunday lunches in the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major, each mother was presented with a red or yellow rose.

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WELSH THEME IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY AT ALL SAINTS SCHOOL!



ST DAVID'S Day at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Barry, was a day of celebration and fun, when everyone dressed in Welsh-themed costumes and there were many colourful and imaginative entries.

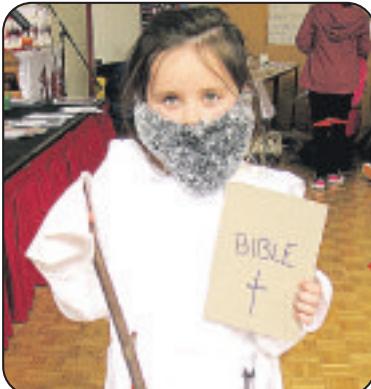
The eisteddfod began with the chairing of the Bard, when Max Blakeley, year-6, was chosen for his fantastic poem, 'The Enforcer,' which ended with a clever twist.

There was a demonstration of country dancing, class recitations and singing, followed by much excitement as the many competition results were announced.

Headteacher Richard Ware congratulated everyone on the high standard of entries, which made the judging very difficult.

He also thanked Welsh co-ordinator, Mrs Evans, and everyone who helped to make the day a superb celebration of Welsh culture and heritage.

LM



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kitchen/breakfast room • Ground floor bathroom
upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden
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NEW

Porthkerry Road, Barry - £135,000

Three bedroom end terrace • West End of Barry
• Porch, hallway, lounge, sitting room, dining
room, kitchen • 1st floor bathroom • upvc DG
• Gas CH • Enclosed rear courtyard and
forecourt • Close to local amenities • Walking
distance of High Street shops • No chain.



NEW

Lakin Drive, Barry - £143,500

Two bedroom semi detached • Highlight Park •
Entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted
kitchen/diner • Conservatory • White
bathroom suite • Driveway with parking for
two vehicles • Single garage • Enclosed rear
garden • Close to shops, doctors' surgery.



NEW

Victoria Road, Barry - £149,950

Three bedroom mid terrace • West End of Barry
• Hallway, lounge, sitting room, dining room,
kitchen • Bathroom to 1st floor • upvc DG •
Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden and forecourt •
Walking distance of shops, Romilly Park,
Porthkerry Country Park • No chain.



NEW

Min y Mor, Barry - £254,950

Three bedroom semi detached • West End of Barry
• Views across Barry and Bristol Channel Entrance
porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms,
kitchen, utility area, downstairs w/c • Conservatory
• Gas CH • Partial upvc DG • Enclosed rear garden
• Double garage • Off road parking for 3 cars.



NEW

St James Crescent, Barry - £325,000

Executive Four bedroom • cul de sac
location • West End of Barry • Hallway, lounge,
dining room, study, conservatory, kitchen/
breakfast room, utility room, downstairs w/c •
Family bathroom • Ensuite bathroom • upvc
DG • Gas CH • Driveway and garage.



NEW PRICE

Porth y Castell, Barry - £459,950

Four bedroom (three double) detached • West End
of Barry • Panoramic views • Hallway, two
reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower
room • Family bathroom with separate w/c •
Mature garden with sun terrace and patio • Tandem
driveway leading to integral garage • No chain.



NEW PRICE

Cilgant y Mellion, Rhoose Point - £224,950

Four bedroom detached • Hallway, lounge, dining
room, large conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room,
utility room, downstairs w/c • Family bathroom
and en suite to master bedroom • upvc DG • Gas
CH • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway with
parking for 2 vehicles • Single garage • No chain.



NEW PRICE

Colcot Road, Barry - £129,950

Three bedroom semi detached • Porch, entrance
hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner, shower room/utility
room • Downstairs w/c • Gas CH • upvc DG
• Enclosed rear garden • Driveway with parking for
several cars • Single garage • Situated on bus route
and close to schools, college, shops • No Chain.



NEW PRICE

Rhodfa Sweldon, Barry - £139,950

Three bedroom semi detached • Waterfront
development • South facing garden • Hallway,
downstairs w/c, lounge, kitchen/diner with
integrated appliances • Modern white
bathroom suite • Double glazing • Gas CH
Double driveway with parking for 2 cars.

**Lewis Street, Barry - £139,950**

Three bedrooms • West End of Barry • Porch,
hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower
room and separate w/c • Electric storage
heaters • Enclosed rear garden and forecourt •
Close to local amenities and Porthkerry
Country Park • For sale with no chain.

**Woodlands Road, Barry - £140,000**

Well maintained property with DG • Gas CH
Many original features to hall • Property has been
trading on ground floor as hairdressers for 31 years
• Not being sold as a going concern, but residential,
with the opportunity, should one wish to continue
with a commercial element • No chain.

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Two bedroom semi • Cul de sac location • Entrance
hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room
• Downstairs w/c, family bathroom • upvc DG • Gas
CH • Enclosed rear garden • Private road leading to
driveway with off road parking for 2 vehicles.

**Blackberry Drive, Barry - £164,950**

Three bedroom detached • Near West End of Barry •
Hallway, lounge/dining room, further reception room
bedroom four (converted garage) • Kitchen/breakfast room,
downstairs w/c, family bathroom with jacuzzi
bath • En suite shower room to master bedroom
upvc DG • Gas CH • Off road parking.

**Port Road West, Barry - £179,950**

Three bedroom semi detached • North of Barry •
Porch, hallway, lounge, through dining room, kitchen,
downstairs w/c, family bathroom • upvc DG •
Gas CH • Gardens to front and rear • Driveway
Walking distance to schools, doctors' surgery,
supermarket, pharmacy & post office.

**McIrvine Close, Barry - £199,950**

Three bedroom semi detached set in cul de sac •
Panoramic views • Porch, hallway, lounge, through
dining room, study, modern fitted kitchen/breakfast
room, utility room • White bathroom suite • upvc
DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway
with off road parking for 2 cars • Viewing essential.

**Westward Rise, Barry - £199,950**

Three bedroom semi detached • West End of
Barry • Entrance porch, hallway, lounge, through
dining room, fitted kitchen • Conservatory • 1st
floor bathroom • upvc double glazing • Gas CH •
Gardens front and rear • Driveway • Close to
paths leading to Porthkerry Park and beaches.

**Rose Cottage, Barry - £200,000**

Three bedroom cottage, east end of Barry • Porch,
lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room,
conservatory, utility room • Downstairs bathroom •
upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed gardens front and rear
• Off road parking for 2/3 cars • Extensive works
carried out during last four years • Viewing essential.

**Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry - £205,000**

Beautifully presented two bedroom detached
bungalow • Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room,
bathroom and kitchen • DG • Gas CH •
Enclosed rear garden • Driveway for 4 cars •
garage/workshop • Easy access to Cardiff, M4
and Airport • Viewing essential.

**Hawthorn Road, Barry - £225,000**

Three bedroom detached • West End of Barry •
Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen,
downstairs w/c, family bathroom to 1st floor •
Gas CH • upvc DG • Driveway for 2/3 vehicles •
Detached single garage • Enclosed gardens front
and rear • Easy access to local amenities.

**Maes Glas, Barry - £259,950**

Four bedroom detached • West End of Barry • Entrance
hallway, extended lounge with bay window, dining room,
snug (garage conversion), kitchen, family room (extended),
utility room, downstairs w/c, family bathroom and en suite
shower room to master bedroom • upvc DG • Gas CH
• Gardens front & rear • Off road parking for 2 vehicles.

**Decca Springfield Cottage, Llancafan - £265,000**

Three double bedroom semi detached bungalow •
Mature gardens • Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room,
fitted kitchen, family room, conservatory •
Bathroom to GF • Shower room to 1st floor • upvc
DG • LPG CH • Driveway and garage.

**Y Cerigos, Barry - £284,995**

Three double bedroom GF apartment on the edge of The
Knap with sea views • Gated community in block of four
• Entrance hallway, open plan lounge/dining room/
kitchen, ensuite shower and family bathroom • Security
entry system • Gas CH/air con system • Balcony from
lounge and dining room • 2 allocated parking spaces.

**Birch Grove, Barry - £325,000**

Three bedroom semi • cul de sac location • Knap area
of Barry • Hallway, family room, lounge, dining room,
kitchen, utility room/downstairs w/c, family bathroom
and separate w/c on 1st floor • upvc DG • gas CH •
Front, side and rear gardens • Driveway with off road
parking for 2 vehicles • Detached single garage.

**Port Road East, Barry - £329,995**

Detached four bedroom 'true' bungalow • North
of Barry • Plot approx quarter acre • Hallway,
lounge, dining room, utility area, kitchen,
bathroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Driveway •
Large garden with patio area • panoramic views
across the Vale • Viewing essential to appreciate.

**High Street, Barry - £149,995**

Opportunity to acquire a take-away with living
accommodation above. Currently being used as a
Chinese take-away. All fixtures and fittings to remain
including large range, fridges/freezer, further
freezers, gas stove and microwave. Accommodation
over 2 floors with up to 5 bedrooms • Freehold.

**High Street, Barry - Offices**

Opportunity to lease a 1st & 2nd floor suite of
offices in a prime location in sought after shopping
area. 1st floor: 3 offices, two w/c's, kitchen.
2nd floor: further suite of 3 offices. Rates payable
approx £2,937 (2012/13). Further information:
01446 709933

**Rear of Greenwood Street, Barry**

Opportunity to lease a double storey coach house in the
centre of Barry, just off Thompson Street, close to main
thoroughfare of Holton Road. Suitable for storage to the
ground floor, offices to the 1st floor. Viewing a must to see
premises. Flexible terms. Further information 01446 709933

**Palmersvale Business Centre, Barry**

£7,000 per annum
Opportunity to lease double two storey unit comprising
workshop/storage and 1st floor offices/storage. Rent is
plus VAT. Total floor area 219m²/2360ft. Workshop/storage
areas approx 159m²/1717ft. Toilet facilities to ground and
1st floor. Further information 01446 709933

**Unit 2C and 2D, Barry**

£13,000 per annum
Opportunity to lease double two storey unit comprising
workshop/storage and 1st floor offices/storage. Rent is
plus VAT. Total floor area 219m²/2360ft. Workshop/storage
areas approx 159m²/1717ft. Toilet facilities to ground and
1st floor. Further information 01446 709933

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr Patrick Collins - Forest Cafe, Porthkerry Park, Barry - Retractable weather protection awnings.
Mr John Reape - 72 Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major - New semi detached dwelling.
Mr Max John - 142 Fontygary Road, Rhoose, Barry - The refurbishment and change of use of a semi detached barn to a 3 twin bedroom dwelling with ancillary facilities

and ample parking and circulation.

Lord Windsor, c/o Cooke & Arkwright - St

Y Nyll Farm, St Brides Super Ely - To remove circa 5m of hedgerow and relocate a further circa 60m of hedgerow in order to create a field access onto Heol St Y Nyll with relevant visibility splays.

Mr Julian Carter - Butleigh, Pendoylan - Shorten lateral branches by 2 to 3m to Oak tree, shorten lateral branches

by 3 to 4m to Ash tree and remove lowest branch to Sycamore tree in rear garden.

ESA Tree Care Ltd - Three Tuns, St Nicholas - Fell Conifer tree.

Your Power No 1 Ltd - Penllyn Estate Farm, Llwynhelyg, Penllyn - Retrospective planning application for the retention of a solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment with a maximum capacity of 50KW (amended location to

2011/0190/FUL)
Mr Gerald Keen - Hendrewennol, Heol Y March, Bonvilston - Proposed American timber barn.

Mr Peter Holzinger - Awelon, Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys - First floor extension over existing flat roof garage to provide bedroom and rear private terrace.

Mr and Mrs Craig and Natalie O'Shea - Plot at junction of Gladstone Road, Ty Newydd Road and Woodlands Road, Barry - The proposal is for a single storey building of 570m², providing hydrotherapy pool, multi-function room, treatment room, cafe, changing facilities and ancillary accommodation, with parking and associated landscaping.

Kristal Care Ltd - Island View

Residential Home, 10 Friars Road, Barry

- New two storey care home extension to the rear of Plots 6 to 12, including a general refurbishment of the existing building. The new build extension will accommodate 30 new bedrooms, a kitchen, laundry, plant room and bathing facilities.

Mr Rhys Thomas - 5 Archer Road, Penarth - Removal of front wall to form access.

Network Rail - Aberthaw signal box -

Demolition of signal box.

Vale of Glamorgan Council - Flying Start Family Centre, Gladstone Road, Barry

- New single storey extension.

Mr N. Sylvester - 86 Redlands Road, Penarth - Renewal of permission 2008/00144/FUL, loft conversion with 2 pitched roof dormers, extension to ground floor at 86 Redlands Road, Penarth.

Mr Martin Seamark - 5 Kingswood Close, Ewenny, Bridgend - Conservatory to rear and side porch extension.

Mr Christian Pederson, Topstak - Topstak Chimney Specialists Ltd, Unit 42-42a, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge - Proposed new entrance junction. Existing junction to be changed to an

exit only junction.

Mr Martyn Evans - Parkside, Bonvilston, Cardiff - Alteration of an existing building's form. South facing dormers to be replaced by full length glass wall. Roof of existing utility room to be adapted to become a balcony.

Vale of Glamorgan Council - Flying Start Family Centre, Boiler House, Skomer Road, Barry

- Extension to building for use as a new office space and stores.

Mrs Megan Elizabeth Wilson - 4 Britway Road, Dinas Powys - Remove Sycamore tree.

Mr Graham Ireland - 19 Duffryn Crescent, Peterston Super Ely - Single storey infill extension to the rear elevation.

Mr Steve Atkinson - 55 Heol Y Frenhines, Dinas Powys - Loft conversion with rear dormer.

John O'Toole - First floor flat, 10, Bradenham Place, Penarth - Change of use of first floor flat to Class A2 office use.

Sorrento and Mr Griffin - Sorrento, 67 High Street, Cowbridge - Proposed alterations to form an estate agents to part of the ground floor with remainder as shop sales area.

Mr Paul Harris - 27 Somerset View, Ogmore-by-Sea - Erection of a single

storey attached garage with patio area above.

Renee Pesticcio - Homeside House, Bradford Place, Penarth - Fell Ash tree at rear adjoining Kymion.

Mr Alistair Blacklaws - West Quay Medical Centre, Hood Road, Barry Docks, Barry

- Proposed use of an ancillary retail pharmacy.

Vale of Glamorgan Council - Barry Call Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry - New

staircase enclosure and screening to roof ventilation plant (amendment to 2011/00704/RG3 and 2012/00499/RG3).

Mr Adrian Hill - Land to the east of Trerhyngyll - Stable and use of field for equestrian.

Mrs Susan Vickers - 15 Maes Sloves Leyes, Rhoose - Garage conversion with no external changes.

Nightingales Pre-School Ltd. - 15 Albert Crescent, Penarth

- Extension to provide self contained Manager's accommodation with glazed link at first floor and staff office at lower ground floor.

Mr and Mrs AP Taylor - Crud y Gwnt, Love Lane, Llanblethian - Alterations/extension to existing dwelling.

Mr Mark Jones - Hawarden, 6 Church Place South, Penarth - A wooden green roofed garden shed.

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Llwynon House & Building Plots, Blackwood



Detached 4 bed traditional stone built house with outline planning for 2 further dwellings

GUIDE: £250,000

3 New Barn Buildings, New Barn, Vale of Glamorgan



Character 3 bed semi-detached cottage set in 0.17 acres

GUIDE: £150,000 - £175,000

82, 82A & 82B Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff



Retail investment property in prominent position. Gross Rent £31,000 P.A.X.

GUIDE: £330,000

2 Drake Walk, Waterfront 2000, Cardiff



Modern office accommodation comprising 2,035 ft² over 3 floors. Includes 6 parking spaces.

GUIDE: £155,000

Various Parcels of Land, Garth, Maesteg



A total of 8 Lots comprising various sizes from 0.50 acres set on the edge of Garth, Maesteg

GUIDE: From £5,000

Unit 38 Nine Mile Point Industrial Estate, Newport



Modern end terraced unit of steel portal frame construction offering warehouse and offices.

GUIDE: £80,000 - £100,000

Land at Cefn Pennar, Mountain Ash



12.95 acres of pasture land for sale as a whole or, if not sold, to be offered in 3 lots.

GUIDE: £90,000



Offices also at: Eastgate, Market Street, Caerphilly CF83 1NX



'Parkrun' comes to Porthcawl

OVER the past few months local sports clubs in Bridgend County have been working with Bridgend County Borough Council and other parties to bring a 'Parkrun' scheme to the area; and through discussion Porthcawl seafront was centred upon for its scenic beauty, car parking infrastructure and café culture.

From April at 9am every Saturday morning, a 5km run will be organised from the lower promenade in front of the Grand Pavilion, on an 'out and back' course to Rest Bay and back, along the coastal pathway.

Parkrun is a free weekly 5km (3 miles) timed run, which is open to everyone, and easy to take part in.

It is not a race but an opportunity for young and old, of every ability to enjoy a low key social activity where you can enjoy the natural surroundings, while benefiting your health and fitness, and gauging your weekly performance online.

Registration is undertaken once, and entry is free, and online via www.parkrun.org.uk up until the night before your first run. You will be allocated a bar code which is your ID; which you print out and bring to the race and produce on the finish line and we do the rest.

There is a briefing to runners in the minutes before each run at the event HQ the white Watch Tower, near the pier, and all the results are uploaded onto the Porthcawl Parkrun website and participants can also keep informed on the event's Facebook page.

In addition to participating, the organisers are keen to encourage volunteers and marshals to support the event, where they will receive training and equipment.

So whether it is your first steps or an Olympian we look forward to seeing you on Porthcawl seafront at 9am on Saturday and every Saturday; and what better way than starting the weekend, enjoying the delights of the Glamorgan coastline, and having a coffee with friends, in the many cafes that populate the seafront and town.

'Plaque of honour' for indoor bowling club

PICTURED right shows (from left to right) Mike Fairburn, hon secretary of Ogwr Indoor Bowls Club; Peter Groom, chairman of Ogwr and president of the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association, Arthur Collinge, presenting the WIBA Plaque of Honour to the club.



"Ogwr have a sterling record of success in indoor bowls for nearly 30 years and the selection of Paul Taylor as captain of the Welsh under-25 team puts the icing on the cake", said Arthur.

Primary schools face-off in hockey tournament

Over 100 pupils from primary schools in Bridgend County Borough have competed in a hockey tournament at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

Bridgend County Borough Council's Active Young People department teamed up with Hockey Wales and Bryntirion Comprehensive School to organise the tournament, which saw teams from Oldcastle and

Nantymoel Primaries and Llangewydd and Bryntirion Juniors go head to head for the title.

Year 10 students from comprehensive schools across the county borough also played a key role in running the tournament as part of the AYPD Leadership Programme which aims to improve young people's leadership skills, offering them a pathway into a career within sports development.

Nantymoel Primary's mixed team of pupils from years three to six

Bridge results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:

Wednesday, March 6 - first Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram, second Mel Humphries and Glyn Williams, third Ann Fox and Steve Burgoine.

Friday, March 8 - first John Moore and Mildred Trigg-Knight, second John Henson and Terry Dolan, third Liam Sheridan and John Raymond.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays, at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm to which all Bridge players are welcome, on Thursdays at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, where there are opportunities for those who would like to improve their bridge with John and Christine Evans, who run an informative and enjoyable two hour session.

For more information contact John on 01656 880372.

DN

Brodi (6) shows plenty of promise



READERS will be aware that Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club Junior section has performed very well over recent years, with many trophies locked away in the clubhouse.

Following in their footsteps is Brodi Lewis who is showing great promise at a very early age by winning the Welsh Mini Masters Championship at Celtic Manor recently.

There were in excess of 70 in the under-7s section initially and this was reduced to 7 by way of qualifying stages. Brodi, age 6, was the youngest in his group and went on to win.

Brodi's successes continue; at the Lee Westwood Golf Camp at Thornbury golf centre he

excelled at the skills testing then went on to win the 9 hole par 3 comp with a score of 33.

Brodi was the youngest at camp as the other boys were aged between 9 and 11.

His skills score was 132 and the top 25 after all camps completed make the grand final where the winner is flown to the Lee Westwood Camp in Florida to train with Lee himself. There is a national leader board where Brodi is currently second!

We will follow this young star's development with interest.

Contact the club on 01656 783093/771613 or email: secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk.

JM

Blind people now on target

THE Tondu Target Shooting Club

pride ourselves in the provisions that we make for the disabled to be able to take up the sport of target shooting and a year ago it was decided that we should install a facility to enable the blind and visually impaired to try the sport on an equal footing with sighted shooters.

The tournament formed part of a wider initiative which aims to provide young people in the county borough with essential hockey skills and more opportunities to play the sport. As part of this, Hockey Wales is setting up a satellite hockey club at Bryntirion Comprehensive School, which will encourage young people to further improve their playing skills and feed into Bridgend Hockey Club.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, said: "It's

possible with the system being based on some specialist equipment.

A purpose made acoustic sight from an optics manufacturer in Austria is fitted to a dedicated target air rifle and the shooter connects to it through a set of headphones. At the target end a bright light is shone on the target, which is white in the centre and shaded

out to black on the outside.

The sight registers the brightness of the light and sends a sound to the shooter which varies in pitch as the centre of the target is aimed at. The sound is very much like that which a metal detector emits and increases in pitch as the sight finds the centre of the target.

There are two other facilities in Wales, one in Pembroke Dock and one in Bangor, so ours will likely be the third installation in the Principality and could well produce shooters to go on to the European and World Target Shooting Championships etc, not forgetting the Paralympics, of course.

On Friday, April 5, at

around 11am, the facility will be officially opened, with Marlene Thomas, the Bridgend County Borough Mayor, and Huw Irranca Davies, MP for the Ogwr constituency, in attendance.

Blind and visually impaired members from Bridgevans, the Bridgend and district Visually Impaired Society, will be using the equipment.

Bill Phelps, president, Tondu Target Shooting Club

Local stars honoured at Cardiff Met



Aled Sion Davies and Nathan Stephens at Cardiff Met.

BRIDGEND sporting stars Aled Sion Davies and Nathan Stephens were among the guests of honour as Cardiff Metropolitan University unveiled its Olympic Wall of Fame - a permanent celebration of the achievements and contributions made by staff, students and alumni at London 2012.

Aled, who took gold in the discus and World Champion Javelin thrower Nathan both feature on the colourful installation - situated within Cardiff Met's Cyncoed Campus main reception area - boasting images and details of the athletes, coaches and key representatives who undertook 2012 duties.

Other Cardiff Met sporting stars (past and present) earning a place on the wall include gold medalists Helen Glover (coxless pairs rowing), 1964 Olympics gold medal long jumper Lynn Davies - a British Olympic Association London 2012 ambassador; from the basketball court, Stef Collins and Rose Anderson as well as Mark Hawkins (handball), beach volleyball group admin team manager Yvonne Saker, hurdler Dai Greene and pistol shooter, Georgine Geikie.

BBC Olympic commentators John Inverdale, Colin Jackson CBE, Mitch Fenner and Brent Pope are among a host of others to feature.

Dave Cobner, dean of

Cardiff School of Sport, addressed a packed audience gathered to witness the unveiling and praised the contributions of all those involved in making London 2012 such a spectacular event on the world stage.

Dave Cobner said:

"London 2012 was

Read your GEM online? bridgend-today.co.uk

unprecedented in the effect it had on the British public and Gold medal winner Aled said: "I still don't think any of us can really explain the feelings involved in being part of such a momentous occasion and to now be honoured by our university for our efforts is a very proud moment."

"It was important to us all that we came along to see the wall being unveiled - if a bit surreal to see all our faces up there, especially as I'm still a student here and will pass it every day!"

"Cardiff Met has always supported my sporting efforts and I know we're all delighted that the university has chosen to mark our achievements in this way."

HW

Under-16s reach Osprey Cup final!

PENCOED under-16s travelled down

to Newbridge fields over the weekend to play against local rivals, Bridgend Athletic, in the Osprey Cup semi-final; both teams were looking for a win and a trip to St. Helens for a final.

The game started off quickly, and Bridgend Athletic were awarded a penalty, which was converted by Harrison Evans.

After a long kick down field, which Ath's Ben Jones chased, a mistake by Pencoed saw Ben score a try. Pencoed pulled themselves together and followed suit, as Chris Cooper scored the second try of the day, giving the Ath a 8 - 5 lead at halftime.

Pencoed came back in force in the second half, and with some good tackling from the forwards and good handling of the ball from the backs, kept the Ath off

their try line.

Both teams fought well, and a surprise drop goal from Pencoed's centre, Morgan Jones, from the halfway line, brought the score to 8-8, which is how the game finished.

As the Athletic had the home advantage, Pencoed were awarded the win and will now go up against Ystradgynlais in their second Osprey Cup final.

The Pencoed coaches would like to thank all the boys for their hard work and determination throughout the Osprey Cup process.

Squad: Jordan Fox, Dylan-winn Davies, Lloyd Webb, Morgan Jones, Ellis Griffiths, Alex King, Chris Cooper, Morgan Jeffries, Daniel Maiten, Lewis Brennan, Scott Ewing, Steffan Jones, Cole Lewis, Jac Briggs, James Merchant, Jamie Dyer, Liam Bowen, Joshua Mawnder, Aled Bargery, Matthew Ellis, Owain Clarke and Patrick Canham.

JM



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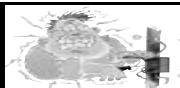
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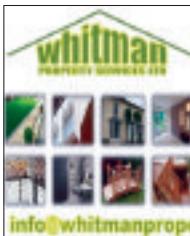
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Caroline died after a long and courageous fight with cancer. She will be very much missed by husband Alex, along with children Sharon and Stuart, grandchildren Daniel, Liam, Alyx, Isobel and Rebecca and great-grandson Dylan.

Her Funeral Service will take place in All Saint's Church, Penyfai at 2.15pm on Wednesday 20th March 2013, followed by a short interment at Coity Crematorium.

EVANS
Nancy

Peacefully at home in St Athan. Nancy, loving wife of the late Jim, dearly loved mother of Doreen and son-in-law John, loving grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday March 21, service 1.00pm at St Athan Church followed by cremation at Coyerch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Ty Hafan c/o W James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

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Closing date for applications is 28th March 2013.

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chris-davies.co.uk/careers.html

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May Fair
to Cowbridge

Fair to be run by the Lions.

L L A N T W I T
MAJOR and
Cowbridge Lions
Club are starting off
their fundraising
for 2013 with a sale
of second hand
books in Llantwit
Major on Saturday,
March 23, starting
at 9.30am and fin-
ishing at 4pm.

They will be occupying
their usual pitch at
the entrance to the
Precinct next to the
sports shop.

Anyone who has any
books in good saleable
condition that they would
like to donate to the
Lions can either bring
them along on the day or
contact the Lions directly
and to purchase goods
from the many stalls sell-
ing crafts.

The stage has a variety
of acts including local band The Lake
Marines, St Donat's Chorale and the Rock
Choir.

"On the field there
will be a Maypole with
demonstrations and a
chance to have a go yourself,
children's races, plus one or two for the
mums and dads, a bonny
baby event, and we still
hope to hold a tug of war
competition."

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www.lmandclions.org.uk

DE

Under-10s'
rugby festival

COWBRIDGE under-
10s travelled to the
Chippingham rugby
festival to compete
against a range of
teams from across the
south west of
England.

Different rules saw
the boys contesting line
outs and scrums for the
first time in their
careers.

Cowbridge took first
opponents Stow on the
Wold by surprise with
quick hands in attack
and a solid defensive
line, leading to a 2-1 win
in their first game.

The second pool game
against Corsham was
destined to be a tough
call but Cowbridge kept
calm and didn't let
Corsham dominate pos-
session.

The creation of excel-
lent turnover opportuni-
ties backed up by expansive
attacking play enabled
Cowbridge to secure a second win for
the morning, 1-0.

The third game was
against Stroud, who took
a confident Cowbridge
side by surprise in the
first few minutes of the
game. Cowbridge soon
regathered their compo-
sure and a hard battle
ensued.

However, Cowbridge
couldn't pull back from

**Trott
Heather**

11 years on 6th March 2013.
On Bossington Mountain you loved so much.
Always in my heart.
We all miss you so very much,
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Ian**

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much loved father to Matthew and Andrew.

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Major until the funeral service on Thursday, 21st March
3.45pm in the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium and
Memorial Park, Barry. Family flowers only, but
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE
COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949DECLARATION OF NATURE RESERVE
IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in pursuance of Section 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Countryside Act 1949 that by a Declaration made on the 7 November 2012 110 hectares (271.82 acres) or thereabouts of land situated to the west of Lavernock Road, Penarth in the Vale of Glamorgan being part of Cosmeston Country Park (shown edged red on the plan attached to the said Declaration) is being managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

Certified copies of the said Declaration with plan attached may be inspected without charge at Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry between the hours of 8.30 am and 5.00 pm Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 am to 4.30 pm on Friday.

Dated this day of March 2013

D Marles
Head of Legal Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL A
MYNEDIAD I GEFN GWLAD 1949
CYHOEDDI GWARCHODFA NATUR YM
MHARC GWLEDIG COSMESTON
BRO MORGANNWG

HSBYSIR TRWY HYN, yn unol ag Adran 19 a 21 Ddedf Parciau Cenedlaethol a Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad 1949, mai trwy Datganiad a wnaed ar 7 Tachwedd 2012, y bydd rhyw 110 hectar o dir (271.82 erw) i'r gorllewin o Lavernock Road, Penarth, Bro Morgannwg, sy'n rhan o Barc Gwledig Cosmeston (a nodwyd ag ymlym goch yn y cyllun a gysylltwyd wrth y Datganiad), bellach yn cael eu rheoli fel Gwarchodfa Natur Leol.

Cewch weld copiau ardystiad o'r Datganiad hwn a'r cyllun yn rhad ac am ddilim yn Swyddfeidd Dinesig Heol Holton, Y Barri, rhwng 8.30am a 5.00pm o ddydd Llun hyd ddydd iau a rhwng 8.30am a 4.30pm ar ddydd Gwener.

Dyddiedig Mawrth 2013
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ties backed up by expansive
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Cowbridge to secure a second win for
the morning, 1-0.

The third game was
against Stroud, who took
a confident Cowbridge
side by surprise in the
first few minutes of the
game. Cowbridge soon
regathered their compo-
sure and a hard battle
ensued.

However, Cowbridge
couldn't pull back from

littered with crunching
tackles and dubious ref-
ereeing decisions, result-
ed in a 1-0 defeat to the
spa town locals and the
end of a tough day for
Cowbridge.

All boys performed
admirably with particu-
larly heroic performanc-
es from Iwan-Thomas
Bartle, Tom Pugh, Rhys
Williams, Jack Reilly
and Joe Marshan.

A huge thank you
from all parents to the
coaching team for organ-
ising such a successful
day of encouragement
which expanded the
players' development.

WL

Swimmers show strength in long distance swim



LEFT and
RIGHT:
Some of the
swimmers
from Barry
Amateur
Swimming
Club who
took part in
the Long
Distance
Postal Swim



RECENTLY the swimmers of Barry Amateur Swimming Club took part in the annual Long Distance Postal Swim, which is run by the British Long Distance Swimming Association.

Over half of the swimmers in the club took part in this event which is fantastic. This event takes place throughout the whole of the country for all swimmers of all ages and abilities during January and February.

The aim of the event is to see how far the swimmers can swim in an hour, and the swimming club uses this event as a marker every year to see how the swimmers are improving with their stamina and swimming abilities.

This year, as in the past, they have surpassed themselves, swimming fantastic distances for such young swimmers. The age for this event is taken from January 2013.

In the boys 8 and under age group Ben Ewington improved his previous distance by a massive 39 lengths to swim a total distance of 2825 metres of the Barry Leisure Center swimming pool, which is 113 lengths.

Not far behind was Monty Griffiths also aged 8, who swam 95

lengths which is a distance of 2375 metres, improving on his last years distance by 11 lengths.

Swimming in the 9 year age group, Thomas Pugh improved his distance by 350 metres swimming 111 lengths in the time which is 2775 meters.

Ben Curran, aged 9, swam a total of 2075 metres which is 83 lengths and improved on last year by 7 lengths.

Swimming for the first time, Joseph Taibby, aged 9, swam a very good distance of 78 lengths which is 1950 metres. Also swimming for the first time, having not been long in the club, was 9 year old Ellis Young who swam 77 lengths which is 1925 metres.

Lestyn Perkins, swimming in the 10 year old age group, did an impressive swim by improving his distance by 17 lengths by swimming a total of 117 lengths which is 2925 metres. Cori Reed in the 10 year age groups swimming for the first time completed a very good distance of 103 lengths which is 2575 metres. Declan Ewington swam a distance of 129 lengths which is 3225 metres of the pool.

James Hamer (12) swam an impressive distance of 3775 metres, which is 151 lengths of the pool. He improved on his last years distance

by 8 lengths which is 200 metres. Having not been able to swim this event last year 12 year old Shaun Bowden swam a very good distance of 3600 metres which is 144 lengths of the pool.

Samuel Smith, aged 12, completed a very good distance of 3000 metres which is 120 lengths. Swimming in the time which is 2775 meters.

Ben Curran, aged 9, swam a total of 2075 metres which is 83 lengths and improved on last year by 7 lengths.

Swimming for the first time, Joseph Taibby, aged 9, swam a very good distance of 78 lengths which is 1950 metres. Also swimming for the first time, having not been long in the club, was 9 year old Ellis Young who swam 77 lengths which is 1925 metres.

In the 13 year age group Jack Parry swam a fantastic distance of 3725 metres which is 149 lengths improving on last year by 19 lengths which is very good. Battling it out with Jack was 13 year old Ryan Connor, who managed to complete just one length less and swim a distance of 3725 metres.

Coach Craig Wheeler showed the swimmers what he could do by swimming the event for the first time and swam a very good 113 lengths which is a distance of 2825 metres.

In the girls 8 and under age group Gwenno Davies, swimming the event for the first time, had a very good swim and completed 91 lengths which is a distance of 2275 metres.

Swimming for the second year Katie Parry did a fantastic swim and completed 2250 metres which is 90 lengths of the pool, improving on her distance of last year by a massive 47 lengths which is 1200 metres. 8 year old Lilly Vann, who has not been with the club long, swimming for the first time in this event, completed a very good distance of 1950 metres which is 78 lengths.

In the 9 year age group which was the top swim in the club and also for the past few

years, 15 year old Ellie Ingram swam a fantastic distance of 2750 metres which is 110 lengths improving on last year by 325 meters.

All the other 9 year old girls were swimming for the first time while Georgia Carr swam a very good distance of 3625 metres which is 145 lengths.

Fionn improved her distance of last year by 75 metres while Menna Jones (15) had a very good swim and swam 115 lengths of the pool which is 2875 metres.

Competing in the event for the third year running was coach Claire Parry. In previous years she has competed she has come second in her age group so she is aiming for gold this year.

Claire swam a very impressive distance of 3700 metres, which is 148 lengths of the pool, and improved on last year's distance by 100 meters so she might be in with a chance of the gold; the club will not find out the result of this countrywide event until July.

A big thank you must go to all the helpers who helped to count during the event as without them this event would not be able to be run.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01467 733784.

We swim at Barry Leisure Centre on Monday, Friday and Sunday and Cardiff International Pool on Monday and Thursday. For more information please also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club's website.

years, 15 year old Georgia Looker swam a fantastic distance of 4000 metres which is 160 lengths of the pool.

Not to be outdone by her sister, 15 year old Ffion Goodland swam a very good distance of 3625 metres which is 145 lengths.

Fionn improved her distance of last year by 75 metres while Menna Jones (15) had a very good swim and swam 115 lengths of the pool which is 2875 metres.

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NEWS FROM PENARTH RAMBLERS

River Taff walk is steeped in history

A GROUP of 11 walkers (with Jodie the dog) gathered at Llandaff village for an easy walk along both sides of the River Taff, and some interesting history.

Pam and Krys led the group past Llandaff Cathedral, built in 1107, and which after the Reformation fell into a state of ruin. In 1734, restoration began and has been ongoing ever since. Making their way through the ancient churchyard to the River Taff and past Llandaff Weir they crossed to the eastern bank of the Taff, making their way past Gabalfa and Blackfriars on part of the Taff Trail to reach Bute Park, where the busy life of the city seems a million miles away.

The area was packed with runners taking part in the annual St David's Day charity race as the group made their way to the west lodge which, since 2012, has been converted into a vintage style tearoom and gift shop and is named the Pettigrew Tearoom. The midweek walk on March 19 will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9.30am for an eight mile moderate walk from Bonvilston; contact Louise/Alison on 01446 794313.

The area was packed with runners taking part in the annual St David's Day charity race as the group made their way to the west lodge which, since 2012, has been converted into a vintage style tearoom and gift shop and is named the Pettigrew Tearoom.

Leaving the park through a handsome carved wooden door which stands near to the most photographed part of the castle – the Animal Wall designed by William Burges for the 3rd Marquess of Bute – they entered the hustle and noise of city life and crossed Cardiff Bridge.

After 1766, the castle was owned by the Bute family, who amassed their fortune from the second Marquess of Bute, who turned Cardiff docks into the greatest coal exporting port in the world, passing his fortune on to his son John who, by the 1860s, was reputed to be the richest man in the world.

After 1766, the castle was owned by the Bute family, who amassed their fortune from the second Marquess of Bute, who turned Cardiff docks into the greatest coal exporting port in the world, passing his fortune on to his son John who, by the 1860s, was reputed to be the richest man in the world.

'Let us pray for you' says local church

LAST month Vale Church completed a day of continuous 24-hour prayer.

This was a great achievement and a significant milestone in our short history.

Commencing at 8am, there was at least one person praying for the next 24-hour cycle.

The gospels record that Jesus had cause to pray all night and it is a pattern which we want to follow.

The next 24-hour prayer session is on Wednesday, March 20.

We want to bless the community as much as possible and welcome any requests for prayer.

Alun Griffiths

Busy spring for Lions

PORTHCAWL Lions are having a very busy time with four events due in the near future:

The first event is the first ever quiz night at the Hi-Tide on Friday, March 22 at 7.30pm. Entry is £3 and food and drinks are available during the evening.

The following day, Saturday, March 23 sees the next beach clean.

All volunteers please meet at The Rest at 10am. Stout shoes should be worn but all other equipment will be provided.

Porthcawl Lions' now famous book sales start again on Easter weekend.

On Saturday and

Sunday March 30-31, there will be the usual massive selection of fiction, non-fiction, paperback and hardback books on sale at The Seabank Hotel.

Doors are open between 10am and 4pm, and entry is free.

Enjoy a hot drink and home-made cake for only £1.50 at the club's coffee morning on Friday, April 5 between 10.30am and 12.30pm at Trinity Church, John Street.

A busy club like Porthcawl Lions always welcomes new members. Please call 01656 788583 if you are interested in learning more about the club.

JOHN COSSON

Churches Together in spring talk

CHURCHES Together in Cowbridge and District are holding our spring talk on

Tuesday, March 19 in the United Free Church in Cowbridge, at 7.30pm for 8pm.

The speaker is Mike McNamee, Professor of Applied Ethics at Swansea University and the title of the talk is 'Suffering, Salvation and Sport: the doping controversy and why it matters'.

There is no charge, everyone is welcome to attend and donations will be gratefully received.

RS

Big Screen welcomes Affleck's Argo

BIG SCREEN'S next film is *Argo* (Cert 15) on Thursday, March 21 at 7.30pm (doors open 7.10pm) in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

In 1980, a joint CIA-Canadian operation mounted a daring raid to extract six fugitive American diplomatic personnel out of revolutionary Iran. Tony Mendez (Ben Affleck) devised a cunning plan involving a film crew to rescue the hostages. The film won this year's Oscar for Best Picture.

Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office or on the door).

You do not have to be a Christian or have any particular belief system. Whatever your concerns or worries, we will commit to pray for you for 24 hours.

Whether your problems are financial, ill health, relationships or addiction we would like to hear from you.

Provide as much or little detail as wished even if it's just initials or first name.

You can send a text to Neil on 07870 168154 or drop a note in at Vale Church, Unit 4, The Old Hall, Cowbridge. Look us up at www.valechurch.vpweb.co.uk.

Alun Griffiths

Gwyn drives off in style for farmer's golf society!



THE opening meeting of the season for members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held recently at Southerndown Golf Club with incoming captain Gwyn Thomas launching the traditional opening shot to commence proceedings witnessed by the 41 members and guests assembled at the first tee.

Attaching a little back spin to his tee shot, and also having to contend with the sloping fairway, Gwyn's ball came to rest a little closer to its starting position than many had predicted.

It was somewhat ironic therefore that the member of society who correctly guessed the distance of Gwyn's opening tee shot was his father David, who willingly accepted the prize of a bottle of malt whisky.

Another welcoming sight for the members and guests was the

course for the first time off a handicap of four, returned a very respectable 31 points to finish third while Keith Gibson hit one of his better shots during the last 12 months to win the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge-sponsored longest drive competition.

Mike King, Keith Wilding, Jim Hayes and Tosh Taylor won the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant sponsored prizes by being nearest the pin on the par three holes. Neil McLean correctly guessed 25 balls would fail to return home with the majority buried in the deep gorse that is a feature of this well maintained links course to collect the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky that resulted in £75 being raised for Ty Hafan charity.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28 at Bargoed Golf Club and will be sponsored by Hire One Ltd.

T.McC

League stars of the future!



COMPETITION SUCCESS FOR TAOW

THE Tae Kwon Do Federation of Wales has hosted yet another successful competition.

On February 16, 94 competitors entered the competition held at Ogmore Comprehensive School sports hall; the day went very smoothly with students showing great skill and determination.

The whole event was enjoyed by students and spectators alike and

TAOW came away with a fantastic 18 gold, 19 silver, and 28 bronze medals, totalling an impressive 65 medal haul.

Thank you to all participants and officials for making this event as successful as possible.

If you are interested in joining our very popular and friendly club please go to our website for more details, www.taowales.co.uk.

IP



Pairs winners

DAVE and Debbie Lea (pictured either side of Bridgend Bridge Club chairman Steve Burgoyne) were the winners of the 2013 club handicap pairs competition held over two weeks.

From left to right in the photo, Daniel Maiden, Ben Jones, Alex King, Morgan Jefferies and Rhys Brownsell.

THE Bridgend rugby production line has produced another five Welsh internationals.

Dan, Ben, Alex, Morgan and Rhys have been selected for Wales rugby league under-16s.

Having been selected for the Scorpions Academy for the last two years the boys attended open trials with over 120 boys including Super League players.

The five talented youngsters fought off strong competition to be selected and will now play Wigan Warriors before playing a test series against England youth.

The first test will be played on April 6 at The Gnoll; come and support the Welsh stars of the future.

JM



Paralympic swimmer Rhiannon Henry, coach Ragan Hagalstein and the Vale of Glamorgan's disability Sport Wales development officer joined talented local swimmers for the launch of the Vale Disability Swimming Academy.

New disability swimming academy is launched

A NEW disability swimming academy has been launched in the Vale to help nurture the next generation of Welsh Paralympians.

The new academy, based at Barry Leisure Centre, will give talented swimmers aged from 11 upwards access to top quality coaching and the chance to become classified to compete in regional and national competitions.

The academy has been set up in partnership with Swim Wales, the

Vale Council and Parkwood Community Leisure, and it is open to swimmers from the Vale as well as those from further afield.

As the academy is being run as a competitive club rather than a recreational one there are minimum requirements for potential participants. Swimmers need to have either achieved level five of the 'Learn to Swim' National Plan for Teaching, or be able to swim 50 metres in a recognised swimming stroke.

Rhiannon Henry, one of Wales' most successful Paralympic

swimmers, was the special guest to celebrate the new academy's launch. Rhiannon, from Bridgend, competed for Team GB in the last three Paralympics and won two bronze medals at the 2004 Games in Athens.

The Vale Disability Swimming Academy trains at Barry Leisure Centre every Wednesday between 6pm and 7.30pm, with additional training sessions planned.

If you are interested in joining the academy, please contact Simon Jones on 01446 704728.

UNDER-15S WIN TOURNAMENT



COWBRIDGE under-15s' coaches Dan Williams and Ed Lucas took the squad to St. Peter's RFC to compete in a 12-a-side tournament with some excellent teams attending the competition on a bitterly cold day in Cardiff.

and shipped the only try that they would concede in the entire tournament.

The final was a repeat match against Abergavenny with Cowbridge running out 15-0 victors to the delight of the coaches, team and parents.

Tom Lucas was deservedly awarded player of the tournament by the organisers.

Squad: George Thomas, Jac Davies, Jack Anderson, Fraser McGhan, Ed Couzens, Ellis Poulsen, Luke John, Ben Jones, Joe Davies, Josh Brace, Hywel Williams, Tom Lucas, Ashford Thomas, James Bennett, Rian Thomas, Pete Anderson, Eugene Richards, Craig Boxall, Luke Bevan.

Try a new sport - FOR FREE!

LOCAL sports clubs have joined forces with the Vale Council's sports and play development team to offer free taster sessions throughout March.

All ages can have a go at a range of sports including sea rowing, football, tennis, shooting, netball, dance, trampolining and badminton. The taster sessions are part of the Vale Council's 'Make it Happen 2013' campaign, which aims to build on the momentum of the London 2012 Games and inspire local people to get involved in sport this year.

Whether it be to have a go at something new, join a club, or get into sports coaching or volunteering, the campaign hopes to make the Vale more active during 2013.

and help budding sportsmen and women achieve their potential.

Cllr Gwyn John, the Vale Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: "A number of sports clubs are being really proactive by offering these free sessions and it is a great way to kick-off the 'Make it Happen 2013' campaign. There has been much talk about the 'legacy' of the London 2012 Games and these sessions are an example of the positive work being done by local sports clubs to capitalise on the success of last summer and encourage people to get involved in sport, whatever their age or ability."

For more information please call Julie Morgan on 01446 704748 or go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.

Club wish Paul a happy birthday!



ABOVE:
Llantwit Major Tae Kwon Do Club's sash-bum (master) Paul Jones has been training juniors and seniors for 25 years in Llantwit Major for WTF Tae Kwon Do. The students love him so much they all contributed to an overnight stay in a country hotel and a lovely birthday cake.

PHOTO BY
ANDY WICKS

LMDDL league tables

'A' LEAGUE			
1 The Wenvoe Arms	144	12 Four Bells, St. Athan	81
2= The King's Head 1	137	13 The King's Head 2	58
2= The Three Horseshoes, Peterston	137		
4 The Carpenter's Arms	126	1 Lamb and Flag 1, Wick	127
5= The King's Cup, St. Athan	109	2 The Carpenter's Arms	108
5= Three Golden Cups, Southendown	109	3 Lamb and Flag 2, Wick	104
7 The Fox and Hounds, St. Brides Major	105	4 The King's Cup, St. Athan	102
8 Llantwit Major Rugby Club	96	5 St. Athan Golf club	94
9 Lamb and Flag, Wick	91	6 The King's Head 1	91
10 Blacksmiths Arms 2, Llanmaes	89	7 The King's Head 2	63
11 Blacksmiths Arms 1, Llanmaes	89	8 Llantwit Major Rugby Club	31

Board Riders claim trophy

FREEZING
northerly winds struck Rest Bay, Porthcawl as it hosted the annual Wilkinson Sword Surf competition between Llantwit Board Riders, Welsh Coast Surf Club and Channel Coast Surf Club on Sunday, March 10.

The winds were a favourable offshore but just a little strong, making the 3-4 foot waves very steep and difficult to catch. The day started well for L.B.R with their team winning the women's, boys under-18s, seniors and longboard heats with Channel Coast winning the boys under-14s, cadets under-16s and girls under-18s heats; W.C.S.C could only win the Masters category.

L.B.R went into the final five Open heats with a comfortable lead but the Welsh Coast Surf Club weren't going to be beaten without a fight.

W.C.S.C's Ingama won the first heat comfortably while W.C.S.C's Craig Farnworth showed exceptional form to beat the skilled Ezra Hames in heat 2.

James J from L.B.R won the third heat with a fine show of skill but W.C.S.C's Greg Owen and Chris Seage won heats 4 and 5 to bring the contest to a deadlock.

Despite the comeback from the Welsh Coast boys it just wasn't enough to get ahead of the Llantwit team with just two points separating the two teams from victory and second place. Llantwit Board Riders now hold the Wilkinson Sword trophy and, being the current champions, will host next year's competition.

After losing the first round, he upped the pace and took it to the Somerton lad, forcing him to fight at close quarters.

Dale, using his superi-

Dropped points by AFC as silly errors cost them

LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC welcomed Risca United to their Windmill Lane ground for their Welsh League fixture on a pleasant but cold afternoon.

The game got underway and the Major were quickly on the defensive with the visitors putting a good shot just over the bar in the early minutes. That pressure continued as the home side constantly kept giving the ball away and playing poor options when the simple pass was the sensible and obvious thing to do.

Risca scored on 12 minutes following some further slack defensive play and they then had two shots blocked on the line with Rees and Pratt the home-side heroes. Things improved slightly for the Major as the game progressed but they constantly put themselves under pressure by their inability to find unmarked players and constantly gave easy ball away by trying difficult moves on the wet and bumpy surface.

The Llantwit equaliser came out of the blue when a powerful cross from the left was headed into his own goal by the Risca centre-half and the Llantwit breed breathed a sigh of relief as this was totally against the run of play.

Halftime came and to the relief of the critical and regular home supporters the Major abandoned their 3-5-2 formation and reverted to a conventional 4 at the back with Andy Shaw returning to the line-up.

The Major are at home again this weekend and welcome Newcastle Emlyn, kick off 2.30pm. The club wish to thank their sponsors Watts and Morgan, MPI Aviation and The GEM for their continued support. **PL**

Boxers shine at event

L L A N T W I T MAJOR boxing club were at Grange Albions sports social club in Grange town recently.

On the bill were two promising young boxers who put on a fantastic display to win both contests; first up was 14-year-old prospect Ryan Hughes, and his opponent was Josh Harty from Prince of Wales amateur boxing club.

The bout got off to a fast start with both lads showing good skills and determination. The first two rounds were hard to score with both boys very evenly matched; the third round saw Ryan's superior skill and fitness come into play with straight right hands, scoring with the cleaner shots to secure a unanimous win on the judges' score cards.

Second up was a very determined Dale John, boxing Byron James of Somerton ABC. Dale was making a comeback after five years out of the game and started cautiously, using his speed and boxing brain to edge his way into the bout against the big punching, stronger James.

After losing the first round, he upped the pace and took it to the Somerton lad, forcing him to fight at close quarters.

Dale, using his superi-

This made a huge difference and the Major started to play some good football and were keeping the ball in the visiting team's half for long periods and taking greater control of the game.

The Major then took the lead when Lee Jones sparked into life beat a defender and found Stewart Lindsay in space and he scored well. Further chances came for the Major and Lindsay had another good chance saved well by the Risca keeper.

Both teams made substitutions and with 10 minutes to go the Major looked to have the game sewn up. Then they conceded several silly free kicks around their own penalty area and incurred yellow cards for Jones and Pratt.

Then Rhys Gould gave away a needless penalty which was initially well saved by Lansdown but was converted from the rebound.

The single point took the Major back to third place and with games in hand promotion is possible this season but only if some improvement is made by the squad towards their play and discipline.

Squad: Lansdown, Cox, Gould, Robinson, Faux, Rees, Pratt, Jones, Lindsay, Griffiths, Nash, Morgan, Whitlam, Shaw and Constant.

The Major are at home again this weekend and welcome Newcastle Emlyn, kick off 2.30pm. The club wish to thank their sponsors Watts and Morgan, MPI Aviation and The GEM for their continued support. **PL**

COWBRIDGE DARTS

Annie and Steve are the champions

ON Tuesday, March 5, the mixed doubles competition was completed.

This year's champions are Annie Daily & Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) who defeated Pam Rosser & Clive Williams (Carne Arms) 3-0 in the final.

In the first semi-final

Amanda Hole, Joan Burt and Mark Duhig (Old Post Ladies) will play Mo Fleming, Rob Jones and Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms). In the other semi-final Kay Bromham, Ian Bromham and John Bater (White Lion) will play Pam Rosser, Mark Dowling and Jason Cooke (Carne Arms). All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information or any enquiries please e-mail Paul at cowbridgearts@google-mail.com; up-to-date information on upcoming matches, league results and the league table can be found at www.darts.apsn.co.uk. **PT**

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or speed, took the second round, and after taking on board the instructions from his corner, he stepped it up and caught James with right uppercuts at close quarters, forcing the pace right to

the final bell.

The Llantwit boxer took a well earned decision on all three judges' score cards in a very hard fought and exciting bout. **MD**

PS

Suzuki SX4 a quirky little number!

ROBUST and versatile...two words that spring to mind when I am confronted by the Suzuki SX4 DDiS, the 4x4 hatchback.

A switch allows the driver to select between two- and four-wheel drive, which is useful in this day and age of increasingly expensive fuel.

Vehicles are always more efficient when in two-wheel drive and this is great for typical day-to-day use. Four-wheel drive is ideal for challenging winter conditions or the occasional

MOTORING/TIM SAUNDERS

bit of off-roading. Being able to switch between the two while you're driving is really useful. Compare this to a Land Rover 90 where you have to be stationary to perform this move and I am already impressed.

Interestingly when my first daughter Harriett was born in February 2011, the petrol SX4 was the first vehicle she experienced when I drove her home from hospital.

When my second daughter Heidi was born a day before Harriett in the same month, she too was driven home from

hospital in an SX4 but this time a diesel version.

I like Suzuki vehicles in the same way that I appreciate Land Rovers. They both have an excellent no messing about reputation and can be relied upon in most circumstances.

The test takes place in high winds and when I manoeuvre into the outside lane of the motorway there is an unsettling banging from the roof, which does make me question what it is for a moment.

I am sure it is the flexible roof mounted aerial radio – and although this has not happened to me in any other vehicle – I plough on regardless – my second daughter needs to see her father and vice versa.

Arriving at the hospital my opinion of the aerial seems to be correct. I suggest this should be removed and



The Suzuki SX4.

the aerial fitted somewhere else on the vehicle.

Inside, the black plastic interior is no doubt hardwearing and although the seats are reasonably comfortable there is little inspiration as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz.

No matter how hard I try, I cannot find my favourite radio station but the steering wheel mounted cruise control is easy to use.

There is a raised driving position when compared to a standard

hatchback and this gives a more commanding view of the road.

I actually prefer this two-litre diesel engine to the 1.6-litre petrol I tested previously for two reasons. First, it is pretty gutsy and second it delivers much better fuel economy, although it is much more expensive to purchase than the petrol version. On the motorway it is noisy but consistently delivers over 50mpg.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "The Suzuki SX4 is a bit of an

oddity. It's a five-door hatchback, similar to the Suzuki Swift, but it comes with a chunky off-roader look and is available with four-wheel drive. The result is a slightly quirky cross between the two but it's also a success. It's practical and roomy inside, very comfortable on the move and handles well too with positive steering and an agile nature. At this price level, the Suzuki comes into conflict with too many far more talented crossovers and SUVs, such as the Nissan Qashqai and Skoda Yeti."

The boot is a good size and there is room inside for five adults, all of which makes for good family transport.

New price range: £12,595 - £17,699 Engine: 2-litre diesel; Power: 133bhp; 0-60mph: 11.2secs; Economy: over 50mpg. Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz.

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Competition success for TAOW

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On February 16, 94 competitors entered the competition held at Ogmore Comprehensive School sports hall; the day went very smoothly with students showing great skill and determination.

The whole event was enjoyed by students and spectators alike and

TAOW came away with a fantastic 18 gold, 19 silver, and 28 bronze medals, totalling an impressive 65 medal haul. Thank you to all participants and officials for making this event as successful as possible.

If you are interested in joining our very popular and friendly club please go to our website for more details, www.taowales.co.uk.

IP

Steeplechase heads for Ystradown

ON Saturday, March 23, at Ystradown, the Glamorgan Hunt stage what are now the only steeplechases in the Vale as there will be no more racing at Redlands Farm, Bonvilston.

The traditional point to point is an event where families can enjoy an informal day at the

races and get really close up to the thrills and spills of jump racing. There will be caterers, bars, side-shows, and trade stands, as well as bookmakers to have a

bet on your fancy. There is plenty of room for children to run around in the country air, and all aged under 16 get in free. Admission for car and driver is £10 with £5 for every other adult.

Follow the signs on the A4222 between Cowbridge and Pontyclun; first race 2pm.

For further information contact the secretary, Peter Thomas, on 01446 774310 (home) 0785366902 (mobile) or e-mail peter+liz@talktalk.net.

PT

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225/40 VR18 Avon ZV5 3/L	£102.50

AVON SPECIALS

Size / Model	Price
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215/55VR16 Avon ZV5 3/L	£85.95
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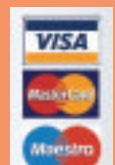
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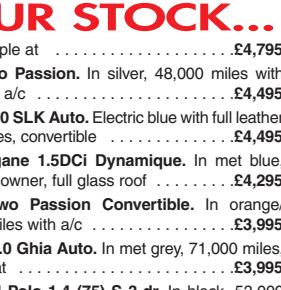
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